

Linda L Mitchell, D-ABFDE

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Linda Mitchell is a Certified Forensic Document Examiner and Handwriting Expert. The work of a document examiner most often involves the identification or authentication of handwriting; but, there are many other aspects of the profession that can be applied to a document in question. Deciphering documents containing indented writings, and obliterated content and insertions of additional data are just a few examples that can be part of a complex multiple-page document examination. Linda is fully capable of performing all such examinations.

Linda's laboratory includes up-to-date equipment and a full library of reference resources. She provides informative presentations about most aspects of the field document examination for small or large audiences, and is a competent expert witness confirmed in San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Superior Court as well as Federal Bankruptcy Court. Linda has also been selected by the Office of the Secretary of State as the Voter Fraud Examiner for the 2016 election year through 2022.

Her professional research, was published in the Journal of the American Society of Forensic Document Examiners, June 2016, is entitled, A Blind Study of the Reliability of Hand Printing Identification by the Forensic Document Examiner. She initiated this study in response to a 2013 ruling by the 7th District Court disallowing testimony because of the lack of meaningful research on the subject.

Linda Mitchell is also a contributing author and technical advisor to two recently published textbooks. Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century, edited by Jan Seaman Kelly and Miriam Angel, pp 105-109, 2021, CRC Press and the Second Edition of Forensic Handwriting Identification: Fundamental Concepts and Principles, Ron Morris, 2021, Elsevier Ltd.

Ms. Mitchell completed her formal apprenticeship in questioned document examination under the direct supervision of Manny Gonzales, who has more than 40 years of professional experience involving most aspects of forensic document examination. (Mr. Gonzales' CV is available upon request.) Her training conformed to SWGDOG.org guidelines and the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE) Training Guidelines (2006) which included training from FBI and Secret Service materials.

Education

1970-73	AA in Dental Hygiene - Cerritos College, Norwalk, CA
2006-08	BS in Criminal Justice Administration - University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
2008-11	Internship and Training in Forensic Document Examination - Alliance Forensic Services

Certification

2014-now	Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners
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Scope of Practice

Expert Analysis and Testimony and Consulting for all types of document and handwriting matters

- ◆ Probate
- ◆ Family Law
- ◆ Personal Investigations
- ◆ Fraud
- ◆ Medical Malpractice
- ◆ Corporate Investigations
- ◆ Civil
- ◆ Criminal
- ◆ Private Matters

Areas of Expertise

Expert Witness Testimony
 Handwriting and Signature Identification / Authentication
 Development & Deciphering of Indented Writings & Counterfeit Detection
 Analysis of Computer-Generated Documents & Photocopy Manipulations
 Relative Document Dating & Anachronisms & Decipherment of Obliterations
 Non-destructive Ink & Paper Analyses & Typewriting Classification & Identification
 Examination of Altered Documents & Photocopier Classification & Identification

Memberships

ABFDE – Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners
 AAFS – American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Questioned Document Section (Fellow, Sec'y)
 ASQDE – American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (Member)
 SWAFDE – Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (Member)
 RCBA – Riverside County Bar Association (Supporting Member)

Other Awards and Endeavors

- o Recipient of the AAFS 2020 Hilton Award for outstanding contributions to the profession
- o California Secretary of State – Voter Fraud Examiner 2016-2022
- o Moot Court Training for the San Diego and Riverside County Sheriff Crime Lab Trainees
- o US Attorney, Eastern California District Expert
- o San Bernardino County Public Defender Designated Expert
- o Riverside County Office of the Public Defender Expert
- o Fresno County Office of the Public Defender Expert
- o Tulare County Office of the District Attorney and Sheriff Dept. Expert

Publications 2009–Present

- 2020 Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century, contributing author pp105-109. 2021 CRC Press(Peer Reviewed)
- 2016 The Reliability of the FDE in Identification of Hand Printing, A Blind Study. The Journal of ASQDE, Vol. 19, Number 1, June 2016, pp 25-32. (Peer Reviewed)
- 2015 Is a Notarized Document Genuine? Syndicated through Ezine @rticles to NBIZ Magazine
- 2015 The Forensic Significance of Handwriting Biometrics. Published in Digital Forensics Magazine (co-author Bill Flynn (ret.), certified forensic document examiner)

Examined Documents and Conclusions Rendered on Behalf of:

CA Secretary of State	Lanak & Hanah – Orange	James O. Douglass, Esq. – Palm Desert
United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of California	Lurie, Zepeda, Schmalz, Hogan & Martin, APC - Los Angeles	Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton - Palo Alto
Riverside County Public Defender	Best Best & Keieger – Riverside	Robert W. Pederzani, Esq. – Newport Beach
Fresno County Public Defender	Musick, Peeler & Garrett – San Francisco	Burns, Schaldenbrand & Rodriguez – Oceanside
CA Dept. of Consumer Affairs	Hueston Hannegan - Los Angeles	Vivoli Sacuzzo, LLP – San Diego
San Diego Co. District Attorney	Schorr Law – Orange County	Zinder & Kock - Stevenson Ranch
Tulare County Sheriff's Dept.	Tulare County District Attorney	Anderson and LeBlanc - Upland

Presentations 2009–Present

General Forensic Document Examiner Information

- o Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Guest Lecturer for General Forensics Class, Prescott, AZ
- o LSI (Legal Secretaries Inc.) Quarterly Conference, Palm Springs, CA
- o Lake University, Guest Lecturer for Criminalistics Class Camp Pendleton, CA.
- o ACFI (Association of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Orange County, CA
- o ACFI, Palm Desert, CA (co–presenter Manny Gonzales)
- o National League of Licensed Investigators, Ontario, CA (co–presenter Manny Gonzales)
- o Orange County Chapter of ACFI, Irvine, CA (co–presenter, Manny Gonzales) Forensic
- o Annual Conference of Calif. Assoc. of Licensed Investigators – (CALI), Costa Mesa, CA
(co–presenter, Manny Gonzales)
- o San Diego Public Defenders (MCLE provider units; co–presenter, Manny Gonzales), Vista, CA
- o Other presentations to San Diego Republican Women's Club, Escondido Rotary, Escondido Chamber of
Commerce, Fallbrook Women's Association, Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA San Diego Chapter)

Presentations to Colleagues

- Introduction to the Application of Practice Management Software for the FDE**
ASQDE Annual Scientific Session, Charleston, SC 2019 and AAFS Scientific Session 2020
- Discussion of research regarding the Reliability of the FDE to Identify Hand Printing**
AAFS – American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Scientific Session 2017 and as part of a 6-hour Workshop on hand printing at AAFS 2020
- Arabic Signatures on American Documents; Are there Class Characteristics?**
AAFS – American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Scientific Session
(Ron Morris, former USSS FDE presented on her behalf)
- Methods for Reassembling Crosscut Shredded Documents**
ASQDE Annual Scientific Session, Charleston, SC
(presented on behalf of Larry A. Olson, Diplomate – ABFDE, IRS QD Lab, Chicago, IL)
- Training Requirements for the Forensic Document Examiner**
IAI, California Regional Education Conference, San Diego, CA (co–presenter, Manny Gonzales)
IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co–presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA
- Computer–Generated Altered Document Detection**
SWAFDE, 30th Anniversary Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ
IAI, International Educational Annual Conference (co–presenter, Manny Gonzales), Spokane, WA
- Onsite Infrared/Ultra Violet Examination of Questioned Documents**
SWAFDE Annual Scientific Session (co–presenter, Manny Gonzales), Los Angeles, CA

Highlights of Approved Continuing Professional Education

- AAFS – Annual Scientific Session attended 2007–2012, 2015–2021
- ASQDE – Annual Scientific Meetings attended 2011–2015, 2017–2020
- Texas A&M – Foundations of Fingerprint Comparison 2015
- SWAFDE – Annual Conferences attended 2009–2016, 2018
- NIST – Measurement Science Standards in Forensic Handwriting Analysis Conference 2013, 2015
- ICAP – Annual Education Conference 2012
- FBI/NIJ – Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium 2012
- Notary Public Mandatory Training 2012, 2016
- IAI – Annual Scientific Meeting 2012
- LCI – Methods of Latent Print and Crime Scene Processing 2009
- Escondido Adult Education – Photoshop Applications 2009
- ST2AR FDE Workshop 2008
- SEAK – Expert Witness Conference 2007

Following are full names represented by the acronyms above:

AAFS – American Academy of Forensic Sciences, multi–disciplinary professional organization that provides leadership to advance science and its application to the legal system. Highly regarded among forensic experts; membership in FDE section is vetted.

ASQDE – American Society of Questioned Documents Examiners, the oldest and largest organization in the world dedicated to the profession of forensic document examination. Strict membership requirements.

SWAFDE – Southwestern Assoc. of Forensic Document Examiners, a regional FDE organization; membership is vetted.

IAI – Int'l Assoc. for Identification, oldest & largest forensic assoc. in the world. Membership in QD section is vetted.

ICAP – Inland Counties Association of Paralegals

LCI Services– Lewis Consulting and Investigative Training, Inc., a for–profit law enforcement training company.

NIST – National Institute of Science and Technology

SEAK – Skills, Education, Achievement, Knowledge, a for–profit continuing education, consulting & publishing company.

ST2AR – Skill Task Training Assessment Research, Inc., training, testing and research provided for a fee by ABFDE certified Forensic Document Examiners with the express goal of advancing the forensic sciences.

Court Appearances within the last five years

Year	Court	Location	Case #	Judge	Case No	Case Name
2021	Orange County	Santa Ana	30-2018-00975694	Deborah C. Servino	20-10201	SAKAN v. LA Tasty
	San Diego	Downtown (virtual)	30-2019-00044278	John B. Scherling	20-12181	Estate of Margaret MINGO
	San Bernardino	Virtual	AAA 0-19-0004-6134	Gayle Eskridge	17-09121	GERARDI v. Redlands Ford
2020	San Diego	State Admin. Hearing	2019080369	Marion J. Vomhof	20-01291	SERVEY v. Miller
	Los Angeles	Santa Monica	20SMUD619,642,643	Michael I. Levanas	20-09141	DARSHAD v. Farrell, et al
	Orange County	Santa Ana	30-2018-00975694	Deborah C. Servino	20-10201	SAKAN v. LATasty
2019	Riverside	Corona	RIC1824736	Christopher B Harmon	19TJ0131	Sarah ALESSIO Trust
	Riverside	Palm Springs	RIC1409788	Kira L Klatchko	19-09213	KORTSCH v. Correa
	Orange County	Santa Ana	10DO11474	Salvadore Sarmiento	18MO0710	Marriage of HOLBURN
	Orange County	Santa Ana	30-2017-900137	Linda S. Marks	18DL1210	Select Bank Card v. ROBINSON
2018	San Diego	Downtown	37-2017-45895	Gary Kreep	18CC1121	CIF v. RAY'S MARKET
	Los Angeles	Probate	17STPB04135	Daniel Juarez	17JY0717	James North Estate
	Riverside	Probate	RIP 1700678	Roger Luebs	18DW0604	Gabriel MUNOZ Estate
	San Diego	Downtown	37-2017-6948	John S. Meyer	18IM0526	LA FORNARA v. Hurwitz
	San Diego	North County	DN169793	Kelly C. Dowlan	18RM0511	HOLTEN v. Comerford
	Los Angeles	Stanley Mosk	P588514	Maria E. Stratton	18ZS0626	Hickey Probate
	San Diego	Downtown	DN 182625	David B. Overholtzer	16LH0610	Marriage of Sonoda
2017	Los Angeles	Pasadena	17PDUD00895	Annabelle Cortez	17DT1119	Liao v. YEH
	Riverside	Murrieta	RIP 1500507	Angel Bermudez	15DT0821	Estate of Dena Sheets
	Los Angeles	Stanley Mosk	BC 582814	Daniel S. Murphy	16LH1123	ACIC v Bryant Matter

18 Court Testimonies previous to 2017

Total - 37

Depositions within last five years

Year	Court	Location	Case #	Deposing Atty.	Case No	Case Name
2021	Orange	Virtual	30-2019-01 063 54-PR-TR-CJC	Daniel E. Katz	21-03261	Fanny Nisttahuz, E-O
	San Bernardino	Virtual	01-1-0004-6134 (AAA)	Joseph Suarez	17-09121	GERARDI v. Redlands Ford
2020	-None-					
2019	Santa Monica	Donald Garrard Law Office	SC123911	Don Garrard	18RB0713	BERNEY v. Davis Plastering
	Riverside	Gresham Savage	RIC1824736	Stephanie Field	19TJ0131	Sarah ALESSIO Trust
	Tampa, FL	Awerbach & Cohn	18-000954-C1	Michael Cohn	19PG0225	GRAND HOPE v. Lake Ave. So.
	Los Angeles	Ludwig Klein Reporters	17STPB01362	Fred Soldewedel	18YB0910	Floyd ALLEN Trust
	San Diego	Navigato & Battin	37-2017-00036946	Travis Bray	18SK0914	MEARS v. All Valley Home HealthCare
2018	San Bernardino	Marchetti Office	PROPS 1591002	Al Marchetti	16RA0126	Louia Reichmuth Estate
	San Diego	Browning Hocker	37-2017-6948	Robert N. Hocker	18IM0526	LA FORNARA v. Hurwitz
	San Diego	Opus Law Firm	37-2016-26072	Michael Manley	16DG1018	Rose v. Murphy Family Trust
	San Diego	Opus Law Firm	37-2016-26072	Charles Pernicka	16DG1018	Rose v. Murphy Family Trust
2017	Los Angeles	Vanderpool Office	01-05-0002-4262	Doug Vanderpool	17MK0424	HELLER v. Martinez
	San Diego	Philip L. Hummel Office	37-2015-40474	Jason Quimby	17EB0420	THOMAS v. Purceil (OAW)

8 Depositions Previous to 2016

Total - 21