

# Examinations of Questioned Documents

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*The Write Image, Inc.*

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## Agenda



- A document examiner.....
- What is a document?
- Typical document issues—handwriting
- Case files involving handwriting
- More document issues: printers, ink, paper
- Procedures with questioned writing
- Summary and questions

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## A document examiner....

- Provides litigation support to attorneys in the field of questioned documents
- AKA handwriting expert/analyst
- AKA forensic document examiner
- Analyzes disputed documents
- Testifies in court as an expert witness
- Helpful in settling disputes



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## About Document Examiners

- **No Bachelors of DE**
  - It's a technical skill that can be learned
- **Government background**
  - FBI
  - Police department
- **Private sector**
  - Graphologists
  - Other

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## What is a document?

- Paper with text ★
- Petroglyphs on mountain
- Rosetta stone
- Writing on a wall




- Hieroglyphics on a sarcophagus/pyramid
- Message on corpse
- C drive on computer
- Shroud of Turin
- Information on anything

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## Disputes involving handwriting

- **Handwriting (90%)** ★
  - Signatures
  - Wills
  - Checks
  - Anonymous writings
  - Writing sequence
  - Drawings
- **Alterations**
  - Scratch outs
  - Whiteouts
  - Erasures



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### Case 1: Genuine signature

Questioned: Q

Known: K-1   
 K-2   
 K-3   
 K-4   
 K-5   
 K-6   
 K-7



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### Case 2: Traced signature

Q

K   
 K   
 K   
 K

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### Case 3: Simulated signature

Q: Q

K: K-1   
 K-2   
 K-3



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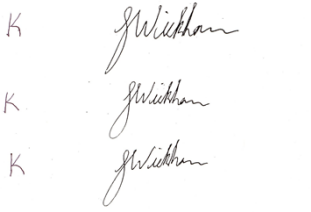
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### Case 4: Disguise and Simulation

Questioned: 

Known: 

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### Case 5: Many Writing Styles



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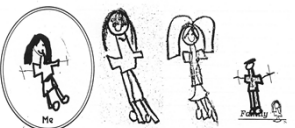
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### Case 6: Child's drawings

Questioned: 

Known: 

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### Case 7: Alzheimer's in HW

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### Case 8: Parkinson's in HW

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### Alcohol on handwriting

The party begins.  
 I can drive when I drink.  
 2 drinks later.  
 I can drive when I drink.  
 After 4 drinks.  
 I can drive when I drink.  
 After 5 drinks.  
 I can drive when I drink.  
 7 drinks in all.  
 I can drive when I drink.

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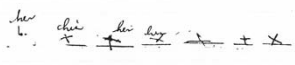
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### Odds and Ends

Q: 

K: 

Marks: 

OBL: 

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### Impact Imaging

- Typewriters
- Ink jet Printers
- Copy Machines
- Fax Machines
- Laser Printers

Shredders

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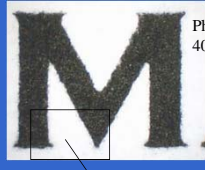
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### Inkjet printer vs. photocopy



Epson inkjet 40x



Photocopy 40x



Enlargement 140x

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### Photo, fax, and laser printers

Photo inkjet printer 40x

Inkjet fax 40x

Laser Printer 40x

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### Ink signature vs. Scanned signature

Ballpoint Ink

Scanned

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### Related Issues

- Identifying ink
  - Optical (non-destructive)
    - Colored lights, IR lights
  - Chemical (destructive)
    - Ink identification, TLC
    - Ink dating, unreliable
- Identifying paper
  - Optical (non-destructive)
    - Watermarks, UV lights
  - Chemical analysis (destructive)
- Indented writing
- Staple holes
- Adhesives

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## Helpful Hints for Attorneys

- **Questioned signature**
  - Need comparison signatures
    - Contemporaneous with questioned
    - Similar purpose as questioned
  - How many? 10 to 20?
- **Originals and copies**
- **Print script and cursive writing**
- **Consult, and understand the analysis**

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## Taking request writing in deposition

- **Denied signature**
  - Create circumstance as questioned
    - Signature on line, add \_\_\_\_\_
    - Signature in cell, add
  - Photocopy the drivers license
- **Denied writing**
  - Request similar letter combinations
  - Dictation

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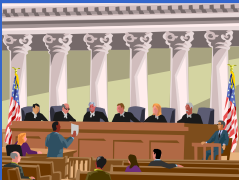
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## Summary

- **Expertise of document examiners**
- **Useful to the court in settling cases**
- **Q & A**



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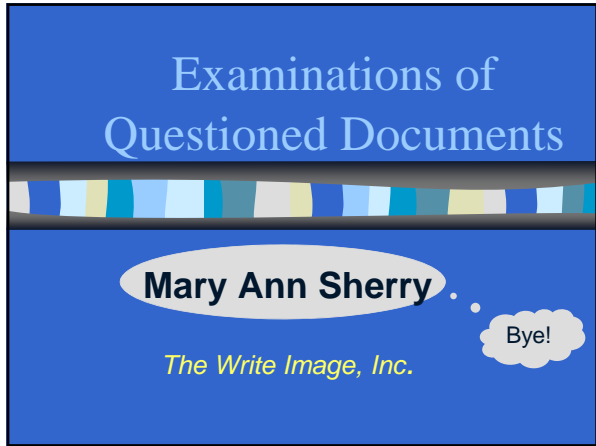
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