

LESNEVICH INFO FROM FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINERS

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GUS R. LESNEVICH

DIPLOMATE American Board of
Forensic Document Examiners

Date: MARCH 18, 1997 Time: 4:18p
To: JIM CLEMENTE
Fax: (202) 514-8802
From: Gus R. Lesnevich

We are faxing 9 pages of the following requested/
pertinent information. This page is considered Page 1.

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above number of pages, please call the following number as soon
as possible: (610) 647 2974.

Sandy Ong

*4/1/97
MAY
1997*

QUALIFICATIONS

After four years as a CID Agent (Criminal Investigator), I began my training in the field of Questioned Document Examination at the United States Military Crime Laboratory, Fort Gordon, Georgia. Upon completion of my training (1968 to 1970), I was certified by the Department of Defense, U.S. Army, as Examiner of Questioned Documents. During my military service, I served as Examiner, both in the United States, and as Chief, Questioned Document Section, U.S. Military Crime Laboratory (Provisional) South Viet Nam.

Upon leaving military service, I entered private practice in Atlanta, Georgia. During this time, I worked as a Handwriting Expert for some of the leading law firms in the South, as well as handling civil disputes for private corporations and individual claimants and plaintiffs.

In 1974, I was recruited by the United States Secret Service. In 1976, I was promoted to Senior Document Examiner, at the Secret Service Identification Branch, a division of Special Investigations. During my tenure with the Secret Service, I was responsible for the training of junior examiners, and assuming individual responsibility for the examination of U.S. Treasury Checks, Saving Bonds, Banking Documents, etc., as well as the examination of threatening correspondence directed at the President of the United States, and other persons under the protection of the Secret Service.

In August of 1981, I left the United States Secret Service and re-entered private practice. Although I continue to work for U.S. Attorneys, Federal, and State Law Enforcement Agencies, Legal Aid and Public Defenders, the predominance of my work is in the private sector.

I have qualified and testified as an Expert Witness in all Courts of the United States Armed Forces, State Courts along the East Coast of the United States and Federal Courts throughout the United States.

WHO IS QUALIFIED

There are no colleges or universities that offer a diploma or degree in Handwriting Identification. The only way an individual can adequately master this profession is by serving an intensive apprenticeship training program, conducted under the direct supervision of Senior Court Qualified Document Examiners. This usually occurs within Federal, State, or Military Crime Laboratories, as these are the only facilities that can afford the high cost of such an exhaustive and lengthy training program. The training consists of:

- studying the leading text in the field
- verification of fundamental handwriting comparison principles
- review of research papers and professional articles
- conducting individual research projects
- writing papers
- attending seminars to maintain state-of-the-art credibility as expert witnesses
- actual case work assisted by Senior Examiners who review your work and verify the accuracy of your findings.
- Three to four years of continuous study would be required to:
 - sufficiently understand and master the intricate skills of the modern-day Document Examiner
 - render reliable handwriting opinions in disputed authorship cases
 - be certified as a competent Forensic Document Examiner (Handwriting Expert).

ADDENDUM

July 1970 to April 1972

Instructor, Questioned Documents-United States Army Criminal Investigation School, Fort Gordon, GA.

August 1970 and March 1971

Specialized Training in Printing, Forgery and Counterfeiting-United States Mint, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. and United States Military Printing Facilities, Japan

August 1974 to July 1981

Instructor, Questioned Documents' Course-United States Secret Service, Washington, D.C.

April 1977 to July 1981

Training of Examiners undergoing Resident Training in the Field of Forensic Document Examination-United States Secret Service Identification Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

August 1980

Certificate of Qualification in Forensic Document Examination issued by the AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINERS, INC.*

Recertified (5 year periods) August 1985, August 1990, and August 1995

July 1981 to Present

Since entering private practice, I have continued training individuals undergoing Resident Training in the field of Forensic Document Examination.

I continue to conduct seminars and training for investigators and attorneys in the field of Forensic Document Examination.

* See attached information on A.B.F.D.E.

COST OF SERVICES
(Effective January 1, 1995)

1. All examination and court preparation time is billed at a rate of ¹⁷⁵ \$250.00 per hour.
2. A minimum \$1,000.00 retainer is requested in advance. This retainer is **not refundable**, but will be applied to the first four (4) hours of work. *no min*
3. Court Appearances and Depositions are billed at a minimum rate of \$2,500.00 per day.
4. *A non-refundable retainer of \$2,500.00 is requested at the time that I am notified of a court appearance.*
5. Any miscellaneous expenses will be billed in addition to the rates listed above.
6. The charges for Federal, State, and Local Government work may be adjusted.

FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

Included are: the scientific examination of handwriting, typewriting, printing, ink, paper or any other aspect of a document for the purpose of determining various legal questions asked about documents. These questions could involve identifying the writer of a document, determining if a signature is authentic or is a forgery, determining the age of a document, deciphering obliterated or erased writings, or a host of other questions that might be raised in civil or criminal trials. The Forensic Document Specialist relies on his carefully honed judgment and experience, his comprehensive reference files, and a variety of scientific tools to make his determinations. The scientific tools range from simple magnifying glasses to sophisticated instrumentation, such as recording spectrophotometers and X-ray fluorescent spectrometers.

CURRICULUM VITAE

June 1962 to March 1965

Military Policeman, United States Army, Korea and Brooklyn, New York

April 1965 to March 1968

United States Army Certified Criminal Investigator, (C.I.D. Agent), Nuremberg, Bavaria, Germany

April 1968 to June 1970

Resident Trainee (full-time student) in the field of Questioned Documents-United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Fort Gordon, GA.

July 1970 to April 1972

Examiner of Questioned Documents-United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Fort Gordon, GA., and United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, (Provisional) South Viet Nam

May 1972 to August 1974

Private Practice, Examiner of Questioned Documents-Atlanta, GA.

August 1974 to July 1981

Examiner of Questioned Documents, Senior Examiner of Questioned Documents-Identification Laboratory, United States Secret Service, Washington, D.C.

August 1981 to Present

Private Practice, Forensic Document Examiner-Paoli, PA.

BACKGROUND, FUNCTIONS, AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINERS, INC.

The need to identify Forensic Scientists qualified to provide essential professional services for the nation's judicial and executive branches of government, as well as the community in general, has been long recognized. In response to this professional mandate, the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc. was organized in 1977 to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of science, a program of certification and recertification in forensic document examination. In purpose, function and organization, the ABFDE is thus analogous to the certifying boards in various other scientific fields.

The objective of the Board is to establish, enhance and maintain standards of qualification for those who practice forensic document examination, and to certify as qualified specialists those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to make available to the judicial system and others a practical and equitable system for readily identifying specialists in Forensic Document Examination who possess the requisite qualifications for competence.

Certification and recertification is based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of education, training, experience, and achievement, as well as the results of formal examinations of forensic document problems.

The Board is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. Its sponsors are the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners; and the Canadian Society of Forensic Science. The Board is composed of Officers and other Directors who serve staggered terms and are elected from among nominees of the designated nominating organizations, or who serve at-large.

**RETAINED AS GOVERNMENT EXPERT
IN THE FOLLOWING WIDELY PUBLICIZED CASES:**

U.S. vs. Eddie Antar ("Crazy Eddie")

U.S. vs. Giovanni Gambino

U.S. vs. Leona Helmsley

U.S. vs. Don King
1985 and 1995

U.S. vs. Imelda Marcos

U.S. vs. Bess Myerson

U.S. vs. Darryl Strawberry

People vs. Chuck Jones
(Marla Maples' Publicist)

People vs. Edward Leary
(N.Y.C. Subway Firebombing)

"Wedtech" Case

"The Commission" Case

"Pizza Connection" Case

"N.Y.C. Parking
Violations Bureau" Scandal

IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

U.S. vs. V. Thomas Clines

U.S. vs. Albert Hakim

U.S. vs. Lt. Col. Oliver North

U.S. vs. Admiral John Poindexter

U.S. vs. General Richard Secord

U.S. vs. Caspar Weinberger

INSIDER TRADING

U.S. vs. Ivan F. Boesky

U.S. vs. David W. C. Clark

U.S. vs. GAF Corporation

U.S. vs. Boyd L. Jefferies

U.S. vs. Dennis B. Levine

U.S. vs. Michael Milken