

## 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. Her current 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 is a contributing author to the soon-to-be-published textbook, Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century and has also been selected by the Office of the Secretary of State as the Voter Fraud Examiner for the 2016 election year through 2020.

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)  
 PASD - Probate Attorneys of San Diego (Supporting)

### Other Awards and Endeavors

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

### Publications 2009–Present

- 2020 Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century, contributing author. Pub date TBA (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, 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<br>Eastern District of California | Lurie, Zepeda, Schmalz, Hogan & Martin,<br>APC - Los Angeles | Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton - Palo Alto |
| Riverside County Public Defender                                  | Bonne Bridges et al. – Los Angeles                           | 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                                   | Oceanside Unified School District               |
| Tulare County Sheriff's Dept.                                     | Tulare County District Attorney                              | Anderson and LeBlanc - Upland                   |

### Presentations 2009–Present

#### General Forensic Document Examiner Information

- LSI (Legal Secretaries Inc.) Quarterly Conference, Palm Springs, CA
- Lake University, Guest Lecturer for Criminalistics Class Camp Pendleton, CA. (Marine Gunner, Vincent H. Kyzer, instructor)
- ACFI (Assoc. of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Orange County, CA
- ACFI (Assoc. of Certified Fraud Investigators) (2 MCLE units) Palm Desert, CA (co-presenter Manny Gonzales)
- National League of Licensed Investigators, Ontario, CA (co-presenter Manny Gonzales)
- Orange County Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Irvine, CA (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales)
- Forensic
- The Annual Conference of Calif. Assoc. of Licensed Investigators – (CALI), Costa Mesa, CA (co-presenter, Manny Gonzales)
- San Diego Public Defenders (MCLE provider units; co-presenter, Manny Gonzales), Vista, CA
- 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, 2015–2020
- ASQDE – Annual Scientific Meetings attended 2011–2015, 2017–2019
- 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.

NIST – National Institute of Science and Technology

ICAP – Inland Counties Association of Paralegals

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

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

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

| Court Appearances within the last five years |                |  |                  |                                  |          |                                      |
|--|----------------|--|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Year   | Court          | Location                                   | Case #           | Judge                            | Case No  | Case Name                            |
| 2020   | San Diego      | State Aministrative Hearing                | 2019080369       | Marion J. Vomhof                 | 20-01291 | SERVEY v. Miller                     |
|  | Orange County  | Santa Ana                                  | 30-2018-00975694 | Deborah C. Servino               | 20-10201 | Sakan v. LA Tasty                    |
| 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                 |
| 2016   | Orange County  | Santa Ana                                  | 14D 01-03-50     | Clay M. Smith                    | 16JS1220 | Marrage of Wiese                     |
|  | Orange County  | Santa Ana                                  | 30-2015-00782508 | David L. Belz                    | 17SS0208 | Allison BOLLINGER Matter             |
|  | Riverside      | Family                                     | RID1500219       | Charistopher B. Harmon           | 16RF0802 | Carrie PYLE Matter                   |
|  | Riverside      | Family                                     | RID204171        | Eric V. Isaac                    | 16KP0204 | NEELY v. Neely                       |
|  | Orange County  | Santa Ana                                  | 30-2015-00782508 | Mary Fingal Schulte              | 17SS0208 | Allison BOLLINGER Matter             |
| 13 Court Testimonies previous to 2016        |                |  |                  |                                  |          |                                      |
| Depositions within last five years           |                |  |                  |                                  |          |                                      |
| Year   | Court          | Location                                   | Case #           | Deposing Atty.                   | Case No  | Case Name                            |
| 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 Health Care |
| 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)              |
| 2016   | Encino         | Oldman, Cooley, Sallus, Birnberg & Coleman | BC064049         | Kasey Diba, Mary-Felicia Apanius | 15MP0912 | Getz v. EDWARDS                      |
|  | Riverside      | Historic Courthouse Probate                | RIP1500507       | Scott Fridley                    | 15DT0821 | Estate of Dena Sheets                |
|  | Irvine         | Lubin Olson & Niewiadomski                 | RG14718709       | Danielle Doremus Decker          | 16JS0218 | Riverview v. CHHATRALA EDES          |
| 5 Depositions Previous to 2015               |                |  |                  |                                  |          |                                      |