

Applied Forensics

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Applied Forensics cited in the Top Verdicts in NY for 2009
- Would you be interested in attending our complimentary Forensic Forum Breakfast Series being planned for New York, Boston and Washington D.C.? Visit our website for details and sign up.

All of our Document Examiners are certified by the ABFDE (www.abfde.org)

Document Examiners

- Dennis J. Ryan
- Traci L. Moran
- Laura Hammond
- Kathleen M. Storer

Document Analysis

- Susan Fortunato

Demand still high for expert witnesses

While the recession has not cut back demand for expert witnesses, lawyers are hiring them later in the pre-trial process to cut costs, according to Lawyers USA.

Executive education firm SEAK Inc, found in their survey of specialists and lawyers that lawyers are looking for new ways to save money.

Some lawyers are reducing the number of experts they use in a case. Others are using experts who cover a wide range of fields, such as an “accident

reconstructionist with an architectural background,” Lawyers USA reports.



Expert witnesses are still in high demand

However, SEAK’s survey also found that expert witnesses are not lowering their fees in response to the recession. Some experts have reported an increased

demand for their services.

John Simek, vice president of Sensei Enterprises, predicted expert witnesses will continue to be in high demand in the near future.

“The experts who do excellent work are still very busy,” he said. “There is still a lot of competition amongst experts, but the use of experts, as far as we can see, has not gone down.”

Ink Specialist joins Applied Forensics

Susan L. Fortunato has joined Applied Forensics as a Forensic Document Analyst, consulting in examinations involving ink, toner, paper and plastic documents to determine the method of manufacture,

the age, the origin or the nature of material alterations.

Sue has received her training with the US Government. She has been a training instructor for the International Law

Enforcement Academy, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and the United States Secret Service.

She has testified in federal, state and local courts throughout the country.

East Meadow

1975 Hempstead Turnpike
Suite 407
East Meadow, N.Y. 11554

Phone: (516) 826-6429
Fax: (516) 409-0285

Washington D.C.

5268G Nicholson Lane
Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: (202) 657-5187
Fax: (301) 560-6597

Boston

75 Arlington Street
Suite 500
Boston, MA 02116

Phone: (617) 523-2959
Fax: (617) 249-0419

Is Graphology the same as Forensic Document Examination?

Graphology or questioned document. was completed through a correspondence school and strongly emphasized graphoanalysis. But it also pointed out that the witness was not certified by the ABFDE.

Some graphologists call themselves handwriting analysts or document examiners and are therefore confused with FDEs.

In U.S. v. Bourgeois 950 F 2d 980 (5th Cir. 1992), the court rejected the testimony of a proffered handwriting examiner, in part, because his training

graphoanalysis attempts to predict character traits from handwriting examination. Forensic document examination involves the analysis and comparison of questioned documents with known material in order to determine the author or origin of the

Toll-free (888) 883-1352 or e-mail dryan@appliedforensics.com



1975 Hempstead Turnpike
Ste 407
East Meadow, NY 11554

Ink Specialist joins Applied Forensics— story inside