



**F I S H E R F O R E N S I C
DOCUMENT LABORATORY, INC.**

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Overview of Qualifications

M. Patricia Fisher

Diplomate, BFDE¹ - Board of Forensic Document Examiners

For over 25 years, M. Patricia Fisher has worked full time as a forensic document examiner involving most document examination problems that use **non-destructive** testing including:

- Handwriting/signature identification
- Fabricated documents
- Altered medical and business records
- Identification problems involving typewriters, computer printouts, e-mail printouts, watermarks, papers, writing instruments and intersections of lines.

Specializes in questioned documents in probate and financial elder abuse matters, altered medical records, fabricated documents, and complex cases involving multiple document issues.

Qualified to testify in Federal and State Courts in California and Nevada in over 200 court proceedings since 1979. Additional testimony provided in arbitrations, hearings, and depositions.

Laboratory

Standard testing procedures using state of the art laboratory including the ESDA for indented writing testing, the Video Spectral Comparator 4c for testing requiring a range of light sources for paper and ink examinations, and a video stereomicroscope with image capture software.

Professional education and publications

Actively participates on an annual basis in training workshops and continuing education related to the field of forensic document examination field. Extensive background in teaching and writing for presentation of document issues to the layperson and in writing laboratory reports. A frequent presenter at professional meetings. Seventeen publications in the field.

Certification and Professional Associations

Diplomate of and certified by the Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Certified by the Association of Forensic Document Examiners (AFDE), and the Association of Certified Fraud Specialists. Editor of the Journal of Forensic Document Examination, a scientific peer reviewed journal. Member of the American Society of Testing and Material International's Subcommittee for Questioned Documents and the International Graphonomics Society (IGS) based at the Motor Control Laboratory at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

¹ The BFDE's certification program has been accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board.

***Academic Background**

- 1994** M.J., Masters Degree in Journalism, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley. Professional Project: On the Trail of the Trawniki Card (an independent investigation of an historical document in the State of Israel v. Ivan [John] Demjanjuk).
- 1965** California Secondary Teaching Credential, San Francisco State University. Currently holds California Lifetime Teaching Credential.
- 1963** B.A., Mills College, Oakland, California.

*Note: There is currently no academic degree in the United States for the examination of questioned documents.

Training and Continuing Education

- 1984-2009** Over 1000 hours of training workshops and continuing education seminars related to forensic document examination. Sponsors of these seminars include the Association of Forensic Document Examiners, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the International Graphonomics Society, the National Forensic Science Technology Center, the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IFS), the Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Institute of Paper Chemistry.

Special workshops and training programs

- 2006** Fundamentals of Microscopy for Forensic Document Examiners, the College of Microscopy, McCrone Associates, Westmont, Illinois.
- 2005** Examinations by Video Spectral Comparator (AAFS), Chinese Handwriting Examination (IFS), and Disguise in Handwriting (AFDE).
- 2003** Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis For Forensic Document Examiners, a four day training session, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, June.
- 1996** Ten hour program titled, *The Forensic Application of Behavioral Artifacts: Handwriting Examination*, taught by Bryan J. Found, Research Scientist and Forensic Consultant (Seminar Held in El Paso, Texas). Certificate of participation awarded by LaTrobe University, Melbourne, Australia.
- 1987** Nine-day training program titled, *Paper Fiber Analysis*, conducted by the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Training

- 1982-1985** Completed three years training with George E. Posner, a questioned document examiner and forensic photographer. The training included the use of infrared and ultraviolet light examinations, advanced typewriting identification, computer identification, intersection of ink lines and the effective use of photographs in court exhibits.

Certifications

- 2003** Board of Forensic Document Examiners (BFDE). The BFDE's certification program is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board.
- 2000** Certified, Certified Fraud Specialist Association
- 1999** Certified by testing, Association of Forensic Document Examiners

Presentations, papers, training at professional meetings (partial list)

Panelist on the *Forensic Applications of Handwriting*, Eighth Biennial Conference of the International Graphonomics Society, Genoa Italy, August 1997.

Anonymous Writings in the Workplace and Update on the 'Science' of Handwriting Identification as Viewed by the Courts, Pan American Questioned Documents Symposium sponsored by the Association of Forensic Document Examiners, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 1997.

Expert for mock trial in a criminal case tried by a federal prosecutor with a judge and defense attorney, Symposium sponsored by the Association of Forensic Document Examiners, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 1998.

Signatures of persons with parkinsonism and hepatic encephalopathy as comparison standards, co-authored with Carl E. Anderson, M.D., 9th Biennial Conference for the International Graphonomics Society, Singapore, June 1999. Selected as one of the opening papers for the conference.

Co-authored with Leonard P. Chen, Ph.D. *Latent Images: the First Impression Primary or Secondary?* Presented at the 15th Triennial Conference of the International Association of Forensic Sciences, UCLA, August 1999. Presenter at the Association of Forensic Document Examiner's Annual Symposium, Scottsdale, Arizona, November 1999.

PI's and Experts in a Digital World, opening presentation for the California Association of Licensed Investigators' Annual Conference, Indian Wells, California, June 2000.

FDEs, Ethics and the Media, 2004 AFDE Annual Continuing Education Symposium, Rochester, New York, November 2004

Document Examination for Defense Investigators, Defense Investigators' Training Academy, Alan Hancock College, Criminal Justice program, Lompoc, California, August 2005.

Complexity, a Case Study, 2005 AFDE Annual Continuing Education Symposium, San Antonio, Texas, October 28, 2005.

Additional lectures, training sessions, journals on questioned documents in probate, trust, and elder abuse cases

“Forgery and Financial Elder Abuse,” Certified Fraud Specialists annual Conference, San Francisco, California (2008). “Questioned Documents in Probate Litigation,” Alameda County Bar Association’s Litigation Section, Oakland, California (2006). “Forged Documents in Elder Abuse,” presented to the East Bay Women’s Forum (2000). Guest trainer on questioned documents in probate matters for the Training Conference of the California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (1995). Questioned Documents in Probate Cases presented to the Attorneys Probate Association of San Francisco (1994). Editor for a special issue of the **Journal of Questioned Documents** titled, “Undo Influence and Documents” (1992). “Wills in Question” presented to the Probate and Trust Section of the San Francisco Bar Association (1990).

Publications (by subject)

Medical records

Chen, L.P, Fisher, M.P. (2001). *Latent images: the first impression, primary or secondary?* J. Forensic Document Examination. 14, 53-71.

Probate documents involving aging and illness on handwriting

Anderson, C.E., Fisher, M.P. (2000). *Signatures of persons with parkinsonism and hepatic encephalopathy as comparison standards.* J. Forensic Document Examination. 13, 1-8.

Fisher, M.P. (1992). *When a signature is in question in a probate case.* J. Questioned Document Examination. 1(1), 33-36.

Fisher, M.P. (1989). *Holographic will – genuine or fabricated?* Independent Association of Questioned Document Examiners Journal. 2(1), 4-13

Trial preparation

Fisher, M.P. (1996). *Genuine Draft.* Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal: Verdicts and Settlements Supplement. May 31, 1, 6.

Documents in a sexual harassment case

Fisher, M.P. (2000). *Statement tips husband’s hand.* California Association of Licensed Investigators Journal. 33(3-4), 9-11.

Daubert hearing in U.S. v. Starzecpyzel

Fisher, M.P. (1995). *A guide to the Daubert hearing in U.S. v. Starzecpyzel, Part I.* J. Questioned Document Examination. 4(2), 3-13.

Fisher, M.P. (1995). *A guide to the Daubert hearing in U.S. v. Starzecpyzel, Part II.* J. Questioned Document Examination. 5(1), 20-32.

Fisher, M.P. (1995). *A guide to the Daubert hearing in U.S. v. Starzecpyzel, Part III*.
J. Questioned Document Examination. 5(2), 27-42.

Fabricated documents

Fisher, M.P., Barabe, J.G., Rantanen, W. (2007). “*Rare 1972 Marilyn Monroe Oyama Photo Book*” – *Genuine or a Fabrication*. J. Forensic Document Examination. 18, 41-62.

Fisher, M.P. (1992). *Case of the upside down watermark*. San Francisco Trial Lawyer. 12(1),
1, 4, 6-7.

Anonymous writings

Fisher, M.P. (1995). *Anonymous writings: at the workplace*. California Association of Licensed
Investigators Newsletter. 28(6), 11-12, 45.

Obtaining request standards

Fisher, M.P., Posner, G.E. (1984). *Obtaining handwriting standards*. The Legal Investigator.
November XIV (2), 17-20.

Additional articles/reviews

Fisher, M.P. (1992). *Proposed curriculum for an apprenticeship as a forensic document examiner
in private practice*. J. Questioned Document Examination. 1(2), 19-23.

Fisher, M.P. (1992). *Review of Altered medical records*. *American Jurisprudence Trials, Model
Trial Vol. 44.*, J. Questioned Document Examination. 1 (2), 27-29

Fisher, M.P. (1990). *G.E. Posner (1921-1990) photography and the questioned document
examiner*. Independent Association of Questioned Document Examiners Journal. 3(1), 27-32.

Fisher, M.P. (1986). *Writing an effective opinion letter*. Expert and the Law. 6(1), 10-12.

Additional organizations

Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA), San Francisco Chapter – Board of Directors 2004,
Secretary/Treasurer 2005, Program Chair 2006.

Bay Cities Chapter of the Certified Fraud Specialist Association – on Board of Directors and
founding member of the chapter, 2004-2008.

In the media

2004 – Interviewed by NPR’s **All Things Considered** on document examiners’ reactions to the
questioned George W. Bush military letters featured on CBS’s program “60 Minutes.”

1993 - “Proving False,” and article about M. Patricia Fisher’s work as a document examiner,
published in the October 1993, issue of **California Lawyer**.