



Questioned Documents—2020

J29 The Forensic Document Examiner (FDE) Forum

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of the state of forensic document examination through hearing attendee opinions on various current topics. The purpose of this forum is to engage attendees on their thoughts on current issues facing forensic document examiners. Topics will be chosen by the forum presenters and presented to the attendees to then discuss. These topics can range from standard methods to training to opinion terminology. Progress of any discipline depends on feedback from stakeholders.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing members and non-members alike, as stakeholders, the opportunity to provide their thoughts on topics current in the field of forensic document examination.

The concept of the FDE Forum is not new to the Questioned Document community. It was a concept first utilized at the Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SAFDE) meetings in the early 1990s as a method of opening up certain topics of concern to their members. At these meetings, there was a discussion starter on subjects upon which there may have been disparate opinions. Through forums of this type in other organizations, there have been many lively discussions on topics such as the strength of opinions on examinations involving photocopies or rubber stamp impressions. Other topics that could be considered are opinion terminology, board certification, standard training, or specific requirements found in our standard methods. A popular theme in the past has been what type of evidence is required in order to achieve a particular conclusion in handwriting examination (for instance, the elimination of a subject).

Not all discussions must necessarily be centered on issues facing forensic document examiners. Some discussions could focus on attendees' thoughts on and interpretations of quotes from texts in the field by authors such as Harrison, Osborn, and Hilton. Other discussions could begin with the opinions of some of these authors, and other discussions could be in criminal and civil cases of notoriety, past and present. This type of forum is an excellent way to poll attendees on their preferences on methods of testimony, court presentations, and laboratory requirements regarding testimony. Any topics that could relate to international issues and our theme "Crossing Borders" would be appreciated.

Forensic Document Examination, Forum, Stakeholders