

S . A . S L Y T E R , L L C
FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

3606 Fallen Timber Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40241-1619

Curriculum Vitae

Overview

- More than thirty-five years experience in full-time, private practice
- Certified through accredited/validated written examinations
- Experienced witness in State and Federal courts
 - Civil cases - working with both plaintiff and defense counsel
 - Criminal cases - working with both prosecution and defense counsel
- Author/Editor
- Lecturer
- Skilled in non-destructive laboratory techniques

Experience and Certifications

Recognized as an expert in the areas of signature authenticity; forgery identification; disguised writings; indented writings; typewriter identification; anonymous letters; graffiti, age of documents and/or writings; alterations to documents and obliterated writings.

Certified by the ***Board of Forensic Document Examiners*** in 2003. (www.bfde.org)
BFDE offered the first certification test for Forensic Document Examiners to be designed and validated by a professional testing company. I participated on the committee to assist in the development of this test. Continuing education credits are required to maintain BFDE certification. The BFDE Certification Program is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) www.thefsab.org.

Certified by the ***Association of Forensic Document Examiners*** in 1991. (www.afde.org). Certification included passing stringent written and oral examination; Preparation of a test case and testimony in a mock trial before a test jury; demonstrating mastery of laboratory systems; review of case files by a panel of attorneys and judges; and proof of professional experience. Continuing education credits are required to maintain AFDE certification. Since 1975 I have completed more than 500 hours of continuing education training.

- I trained under the direction and guidance of three Certified Examiners who were engaged in full-time, private practices. My training began in 1970 and required nearly four years to complete.
- I was first recognized by the courts as a qualified expert in 1973.
- I was certified by written testing, oral examination and review of my files by the *Independent Association of Questioned Document Examiners* in 1984. I later served one term on the Board of Directors of IAQDE.
- I was certified by the *Association of Forensic Document Examiners* in 1991. I have served two terms as Treasurer, one term as President and one term on the Board of Directors of AFDE.
- I am currently serving as Vice-President of the *Board of Forensic Document Examiners* (www.bfde.org).
- I have made more than 150 appearances in State and Federal courts.
- I have demonstrated mastery of nondestructive laboratory techniques. I maintain a well-equipped document and photographic facility, including portable examination systems.

Publications

- **Forensic Signature Examination** by Steven A. Slyter, Charles C. Thomas Publishing, Springfield, IL. 1995.
- **The Effects of Alterations to Documents**, chapter by Steven A. Slyter, *Am Jur Proof of Facts*, Volume 29, Third Series. Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, Rochester, NY. 1995.
- **A Simplified L. I. D. Design** (Volume V, Fall 1992), **Copy Photography for Document Examiners** Volume II, Fall 1988), **AFDE's Apprenticeship Program** (Volume V, Fall 1992), articles by Steven A. Slyter published in The Journal of Forensic Document Examination, Association of Forensic Document Examiners. (This Journal is now available on West Law.)
- **Looking Beyond the Visible** (July 1988), **Working with Questioned Document Examiners** (August 1987), articles by Steven A. Slyter published by Studio Photography Magazine.
- For three and one-half years (in the early 1990's) I was Technical Editor of ***The Journal of Forensic Document Examination***. I participated in the review and editing of the articles published at that time.

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FEE SCHEDULE

Services necessary to the examination of documents will be billed at **\$200.00 per hour**. Outside the Louisville area, **travel time** will be billed at **\$125.00 per hour**. Car rental, airfare, meals and overnight accommodations will be billed at cost.

Examinations

No findings can be reached, or any opinion discussed, without allowing time for a thorough examination of the materials. A retainer, sufficient to cover the predictable costs, such as travel, copies, uses of specialized equipment and time for the examination will be requested. A minimum **retainer of \$1000.00** will be needed. This will cover the first 5 hours of work. When it is clear that more than 5 hours work will be necessary a suitable retainer will be required.

Reports

There is no such thing as a “first impression” opinion. Materials must be organized and carefully examined before any opinions can be expressed. Once an opinion has been reached it will first be reported verbally.

When desired, a written report will be prepared. When a written report is issued, the permanent file will then include photos for possible use in preparation of exhibits, all worksheets and notes and a copy of the report. Later, if necessary, testimony can be offered in support of the reported opinions. In typical cases the reporting work requires two to four hours to complete. The time and costs for these services will be discussed before work begins.

Testimony

Preparation

The preparation of exhibits and pretrial planning will be billed at \$200.00 per hour. Typically, exhibits and pretrial work require three to six hours to complete. As a general rule, exhibits are built during the week before trial. If a case settles or testimony becomes unnecessary for any reason, the cost for any exhibits that have been prepared will be invoiced.

Presentation

A minimum fee of \$1000.00 will be charged for testimony – whether at court or in a deposition. When completing testimony requires more than one half day the additional time it will be billed at \$200.00 per hour. If I must be kept “on hold” – i.e. waiting at my office to be called to present testimony – there will be a charge of one hour per half-day. When a trial is postponed there is no additional charge to reschedule the testimony.

Any question concerning services, fees or terms is invited.