



Under the Microscope

Vol. 10 No. 1 Newsletter of IADE Winter 2025

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INFORMATION



Hello IADE Members,

It is my privilege to bring you greetings as we embark on a new year's journey. Wishing you all a very happy new year and all the very best in your endeavours. I am from Jamaica where we have the fastest men and women on earth, where we once had the richest and wickedest place in the world during the 17th Century and now where we have the most beautiful beaches, tastiest delights and most engaging culture.

My journey into document examination took place over 30 years ago where, as a young sleuth I uncovered major fraud schemes through the analysis and examination of documents. I met Ms.

East our Vice President during one of her presentations and decided that is what I wanted to do after completing my duties as a civil servant. She gave me the opportunity to be her student and apprentice and as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Through IADE, in just a few years, I have gained a lot of exposure to many experts in the field of document examination and related disciplines. The webinars, seminars, continuing education classes and most of all the general discussions around document examination have broadened my knowledge, built my reference materials and provided the motivation for personal development through self-study and research.

The members of IADE willingly share their knowledge and I encourage you, especially the newer members, to take advantage of the opportunities provided. Be not afraid to ask questions, seek advice or assistance. We are indeed truly fortunate to have the wealth of experience and knowledge that now exist at the IADE.

As we go forward, there will be challenges. Without challenges there is no growth. So, let us face those challenges and grow together.

Robert Farr
Co-Chair Membership- Renewals.



Membership

2025 Information

(Jan 1, 2025 through Dec 31, 2025)

Application Fee \$25.00

Dues \$100.00 Individual
(Annual, Pro-rated)

Lab \$100.00 First Individual
\$50.00 Additional Individuals

*FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION
CONTACT:*

Eileen Page

Eileen.Page@comcast.net
for New Memberships

or

Robert Farr

handwriting.robertfarr@gmail.com
for Renewals

IMPORTANT!

SEE DEADLINE AND
REQUIREMENTS FOR
RENEWALS ON PAGE 5!



Foul Play in the Court room

By Beverley East CFDE, MGA, CAM

“A promise is a comfort to a fool!!” That is what my grandmother always said to me when I eagerly waited for my uncle to take me somewhere special. He eventually arrived with a pocket full of candy and sweet, mouthed excuses. My optimism never waned. He never disappointed me wherever he took me.

I would now say Optimism is a comfort to a fool. Not that I think I or any of us as examiners are foolish but when I took on this case a few years ago I thought it was a no-brainer. I followed the methodology I had learned systematically and arrived at my opinion without bias. After careful examination based on my professional opinion, the signature on the will was not signed by him when compared with known signatures. I submitted my report to the attorney with confidence and then we waited for a court date.

When I arrived in court, I thought I had crashed someone's family reunion. Acrylic everywhere, Fake nails, fake hair, eyelashes - wow even fake designer bags!! The waiting area spilled out over into the hallway. Over forty people had come out in support of the other side. My client had three people in her corner. Two women: one her wife and another her aunt.

Day One started off with the opposing attorney trying to discredit me as an expert witness but after two hours of interrogation and condescending and rude statements the Judge accepted me. “It is difficult to disqualify Ms. East as a witness when she has been sworn in by fifty-eight judges in nine countries. “The Judge said.

During my examination in chief, the opposing attorney pursued to object to everything, every word. Once my attorney asked me a question and I stayed silent waiting for an objection. The judge asked me if I heard the question, “I did your honor, I was just giving counsel a head start on the objection.” Sometimes it does not pay to be a smart ass. But I could not help myself. He continued to object to everything and even had a great part of my report deducted. However, I was able to show on a flip chart in my graphics key points of why I had arrived at my opinion.

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BOARD MEMBERS

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Day two before I got into the courtroom a fight had broken out between the two parties. Wigs and weaves were lost, and nails broken. So, I had to wait outside with a sheriff beside me until the Judge calmed everyone down. I spent another three hours of abuse and objections and then I looked at the clock thinking we will not go beyond four, so I only must endure this another two hour. And then suddenly the Judge said “This is enough for today!! The judge asked the opposing attorney how much more time do you need. He said at least another two days!! So, we were done for that day.

Between us we decided on a date four months later, which happened to be on the day of my father’s anniversary. Still feeling optimistic. There is that word again, ‘Optimistic’. I thought I would have more time to prepare although my opinion would remain the same. To my surprise, He requested that I provide the transcripts of the seventeen cases that I had produced on my case history. This was unheard of, and I called several examiners to ask if this was normal. All agreed with me that I should not seek them out or provide them.

The four months went by, I had surgery which took a longer healing process than anticipated and returned to court ready for war. My attorney was still optimistic also her call was brief as I was still on the witness stand, we were not allowed to speak to each other, and we dared not break the rule and she was sure he was watching every move we made. In the meantime, he had time to research all seventeen cases and systematically pulled the four cases that I was not successful with and attempted to read every aspect of each case that was not favorable to my opinion. He asked me what I thought. I could not fight the facts, but that was not the reason I was there to defend my history, so I simply said, “you are a good reader.”

So, he continued. Accused me of hiding information by not bringing the transcripts. I told him it was not my job, and that the information of those cases was irrelevant to this case. My attorney did nothing to retrieve me from this, by mentioning the thirteen cases had been successful. I do not worry when a case is unsuccessful because there are always components of a case that we as examiners are not privy to.

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To join, click the link below or copy & paste it to your browser. Once you join you will be able to invite other IADE members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4960906200608916>



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Day Four: When I stepped into the court room there were two sheriffs on either side of me. The proceedings started late as I was later told that my client's car was firebombed the night before. I looked into the eyes of the woman who was fighting my client. She was bald and struggling with cancer. And this is how she chose to fight her dead son's daughter for his property. Sad. Sad. She stared me down, but I was the wrong person to be stared down as I can stare longer than anyone without blinking. Anyway, so we continued. My attorney was thorough, but I felt did not bring me back with the cases I lost. She asked me a few questions but not strong enough to redeem me. I still in my 'optimism' felt that the judge would see through all the shenanigans and give my client the justice she deserved.

There were other factors: His witnesses did not have true stories and the Notary on the will came to court but could not produce any documentation that her stamp was used to sign the will that day. Other evidence came out that I was not privy to until after the fact. My attorney called me the next day = Everything went in favor to the opposition. I cried. Such injustice and the judge and the opposing attorney went off to play golf.

And such are the woes of what I endured in a case that I thought was clear cut and dry. And I am only telling you half of the story, some of it too sad to relive. I was hoping to show you the signatures and get your opinion. But my client has appealed, and the new attorney reached out to me. I told him there was nothing more I could do with this case and referred him to another examiner who might get justice for her. So, there will be part two to this article.

To be Continued...

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

The deadline for the renewal of your IADE membership is February 28, 2025.

Mandatory requirements are as follows:

1. Completion of the Proficiency Test
2. Submission of your accumulated continuing education points.
3. Your Curriculum Vitae

Note: Please indicate on your CV if you are fluent in any other language besides English, as it would be very useful for us as an organization to know.

4. The payment of annual dues.

Note that if you have not completed the proficiency test or have any questions regarding meeting the mandatory requirements, please make contact as soon as possible. We are aware that there were and will be challenges for some members.

In terms of points, Certified Members should have accumulated at least 20 points, all others 10 points.

Dues are US\$100 except for students/associate members who pay \$50.

Check out the guide to the points value system on the next page!

All current members should have received an email with the form for submission of accumulated points attached and another email with payment instructions. If you did not, or if you have any questions regarding membership renewal, please contact Robert Farr at: handwriting.robertfarr@gmail.com



POINTS CALCULATION FOR MEMBERS OF IADE

Non-Certified Members need 10 points per year. Certified Members need 20 points.

15 points	Attendance at IADE annual Conference.
10 points	Attendance at any Document Examination Conference or mini-seminar.
5 points	Attendance at any Forensic Science Conference.
5 points	Presenter at a conference.
10 points	Combat Training
5 points each	Monday night class with homework. (Attendance 2 points and 3 points for homework)
2 points each	Attendance - Zoom classes
5 to 10 points	Speaker at Conference related to Document Examination.
5 points	30 minutes
10 points	60 minutes or more
5 points	Teach – Monday night class.
5 points	Teach – Zoom Class
5 points	Article published in IADE or other peer-reviewed journal (AFDE, NADE)
10 points	Research project (Thesis, methodology, observations, discussion, analysis and conclusion must be completed)
5 points each	Non Trial Cases: Submit case history and report for up to 4 cases
2.5 points	Trial Cases: Submit trial date, case number, case name, judge and court for up to 4 trial cases
5 points	Review of book read on document examination
5 points	Write an article for the newsletter.
5 points	Entry for encyclopedia
5 points	Officer or Chairman of a Committee
2 points	Member of a Committee
3 points	Volunteering your services for an IADE affair.

One time only. Member must be working on courses during the current year.

10 points	Correspondence Course via Beverley East and Reed Hayes.
10 points	Interactive on line training course with Kathy Carlson
10 points	Document Course from ETU
5 to 10 points	College Course in DE or related field
5 points	Certification

Q

&

A

Last issue's question:

Why are line quality and pressure patterns the most important handwriting characteristics when determining authenticity or spuriousness of writing?

***Answer:** It is difficult for a forger to maintain good line quality and create a perfect signature.*

THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION:

Q: In computer graphics - what is the term for what is caused by displaying a section of a bitmap at such a large size that individual pixels, which are small single-colored square display elements that comprise the bitmap, are visible?

You may submit your answer by emailing monique@amtpolitics.com

Answer will be in the next issue

Time to Thrive in '25 !

We want to hear from YOU!

I.A.D.E. has over 50 members from around the globe. We need to rub elbows a little more and take advantage of this great opportunity to know others in the field and share our knowledge and experience with each other.

Tell us about your experiences, your cases, your wins, your losses. Let's hear your questions, your ideas, your stories. Everyone's experiences are unique, and what you may think is boring and mundane might be fascinating to someone else.

Cases lost can sometimes be a treasure chest of lessons to be learned. Or they could be a funny story – in hindsight.

So come on, fellow truth seekers. You don't need to be a professor or a spectacular writer. You just need to be a participant in life. And document examination.

Please send your masterpiece to: monique@amtpolitics.com

Have you discovered a book or tool that you found to be helpful for the trade and would like to share it with us? Send your book or equipment review to Monique Rosser via email: monique@amtpolitics.com. We would love to add it to the newsletter – and to our library!

**IT'S
GR8 2
PARTICIPATE!**



I A D E

International Association
of Document Examiners

Join us for the

International Association of Document Examiners' Webinar Series



8-10 September 2025

Topics

"A Question of Tempo"

"How to Manage Large Caseloads"

"Electronic and Digital Signatures"

"Personal Writing Habits as a factor in forming authorship"

"Fonts and Beyond - Identifying False Fonts"

"Dragons at the Door"

and many more!

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Carina Fernandes, will present on "Alzheimers and Its Effects on Handwriting"

Presentations will be provoking, informative, and participative!

Plus, an opportunity to test your courtroom skills with a mock trial!

Member cost: \$200

Non-member cost: \$250

Group rate negotiable for groups of 3+

***Early registration is advised.**



Thank You!



Robert Farr



Beverley East

YOUR WORDS are captivating.
YOUR WORDS are important.
YOUR WORDS are essential.
YOUR WORDS are earnest.
YOUR WORDS are beneficial.
YOUR WORDS are appreciated!

