

S.A. Slyter, LLC

**Forensic Document Examiner
3606 Fallen Timber Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40241-1619**

(502) 479-9200

Curriculum Vitae

Overview

- More than twenty-five years experience in full-time, private practice
- Certified through written and oral examination
- 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

Details:

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 of 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. Continue education credits are required to maintain BFDE certifications. The BFDE Certification Program is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) www.thefsab.org

Certified in 1991. *Association of Forensic Document Examiners*. (www.afde.org) Certification included passing stringent written and oral examination; Preparation of a test case and testimony 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 more than 500 hours of seminar and workshop training have been completed.

- I trained under the direction and guidance of three Certified Examiners who were engaged in full- time, private practices. 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 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 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 laboratory, including portable laboratory 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 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, use 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.

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.

Reports

When desired, after the oral report has been discussed, a written report will be prepared. When a written report is issued, the permanent file will then include photo-negatives 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 opinion(s). 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 in 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.