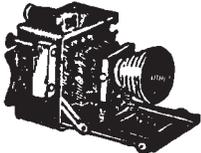




THE PRINT

The Official Publication of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937

January/February/March 2008 Volume 24 Issue 1



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The following story was inspired by the newspaper editorial written by Wayne T. Fleming Sr., the father of Warren T. Fleming, a murder victim. Mr. Fleming's editorial also appears in this issue of The Print.

What would it be like without fingerprints?

By Bill Leo

Adapted from the classic Christmas story, "It's a Wonderful Life".

Well, George Fingerprint, have you ever thought what it would be like if you had never become the superstar of forensic identification or if your important role in criminal investigation was cast aside because of the whining of a group of opportunist naysayers?

We would not have identified the murderer of Martin Luther King.

Here in California, we may not have solved the Hillside Strangler Murders, the Skidrow Stabber Murders, or the Night Stalker Murders, if it were not for you. Yes George, the killers of dozens of victims might have never been brought to justice, and perhaps, you saved the lives of the future victims of these killers.

We would not have placed the killer in the home of Polly Klass, at her bedside.

We would not have found Danielle Van Dam's fingerprints in the motor home of her killer.

After 45 years, the killer of two El Segundo Police Officers would have never been identified and brought to justice, bringing closure to their families and the El Segundo Police Department.

And think George, crime scene investigators and latent print examiners, coast to coast, and around the World can tell you thousands of their stories of other heinous crimes that have been solved with your prints.

George, do you know that in one estimate your latent prints solve over two hundred thousand crimes a year in the United States alone?

George, do you know that your prints are the only positive form of identification and you are used to establish the identity of individuals around the World? Yes, George, there would be no criminal record rap sheets, no way to do background checks of job applicants, no way to verify that the visitor coming into our Country is not a wanted criminal or terrorist. You George, and only you, provide the identity needed to do all those things, and yes George, you have done a wonderful job!

Yes, George that's quite a legacy you have achieved. The World is a safer place because of you. Stick around George, your next hundred years can only get better.

Attached are two newspaper editorials that appeared in a Baltimore newspaper about a Judge's decision to exclude fingerprint evidence from a murder trial in Maryland. The editorials were found on the clpex.com website One is a well written article by the father of the murder victim and the other a typical modern day law student's reply to the 1st editorial.

The first editorial should remind us just how important our work is and why we must stay vigilant and prepared to respond to attacks during testimony. The stakes of losing one of the best crime fighting tools in the crime lab, latent prints, would be far too costly to society.

Fingerprint Ruling Unjust, Hurtful to Victim's Family

by Wayne T. Fleming Sr.

November 6, 2007

I am the father of the murder victim in the case in which a Baltimore County Circuit judge ruled that fingerprint evidence will not be allowed. I can't tell you how devastated my family is that the judge picked our case to challenge more than 100 years of precedents to make her point that current fingerprint forensic methodologies, although widely used around the world, have an insufficient scientific basis to be allowed as evidence in a capital case.

Yet the grieving family, having placed its trust and confidence in the judicial system to render justice, is expected to chalk it up as the cost of being civilized. That price is too high.

As the legal community scurries to make talking points and pontificate on the potential ramifications of this opinion, attention is taken away from the case immediately affected by this miscarriage of justice. My family lost our son, brother, nephew, cousin, grandson, uncle, husband and father in broad daylight while he was departing a shopping mall parking lot.

My son was shot in the head, from behind, by someone who doesn't deserve the many blessings our civilized society works so hard to extend to all.

Our society has spent years debating the notion of cruel and unusual punishment. When do we start the debate on cruel and unusual protections?

In this case in which the fingerprint evidence is so important, Judge Susan M. Souder is making her point despite the cost to my family in particular and society as a whole. I assume that she believes that she is right. But what if she is wrong? How can she feel so secure in her technical academic musing, which would strike down the validity of a scientific field with more than 100 years of practice?

All of our complex sciences at some point default to statistical expressions of probability and are subject to errors of interpretation. They are all in some respects fallible.

Do we discard them all because of it? No, we continue to use our best practices, while working like the dickens to cost-effectively improve them.

In this case, the judge could have chosen to instruct the jury, reasonably, to note the imperfections of the science when considering such evidence. Instead, she struck the fingerprint evidence altogether, suggesting that she thinks herself smarter than the potential jurors and the rest of the world in these matters. The judge's opinion in this case is wrong, even if she is right about fingerprints.

There are better ways to force this debate than to strip the Maryland justice system of such a tool whose usefulness anyone with common sense can recognize in our effort to cope with a society riddled with crime, especially in and around Baltimore.

Today, it's my family that has to cope with the effects of this opinion; tomorrow, it might be yours.

Mr. Fleming's son, Warren T. Fleming, was shot and killed leaving his business at Security Square Mall on Jan. 5, 2006.

Unfair for Courts to Admit Unreliable Evidence

November 10, 2007

by Aaron Gavant
Pikesville

(The writer is a student at the University of Maryland School of Law and a former intern for Judge Souder's court.)

One cannot help but feel for Wayne T. Fleming Sr. and his family (“Fingerprint ruling unjust, hurtful to victim’s family,” Opinion • Commentary, Nov. 6). Their son, husband and brother has been ripped out of their lives through a seemingly random act of violence.

That said, deciding whether partial fingerprint evidence is admissible in court should not be based on emotions.

Indeed, it is precisely the “technical academic musing” of judges and other legal scholars, which Mr. Fleming derides, that must be employed to make this kind of decision.

And after reading Baltimore County Circuit Judge Susan M. Souder’s ruling on the use of fingerprint evidence, it seems clear to me that significant doubts exist over whether the methodology behind fingerprinting forensics is reliable (“Judge bars use of fingerprints in murder trial,” Oct. 23).

It appears that expert opinions in the field are colored by subjectivity and can be relied upon only to a very limited degree, if at all (“Fingerprint evidence on trial,” Oct. 26).

Mr. Fleming suggests that whether those opinions are reliable should be left to the jury.

However, as the basic rules of evidence suggest, courts must be careful as to what is admitted under the rubric of expert testimony.

When a court-approved expert gets up and states an opinion, his or her statements are given significant weight by the jury. This problem is even more acute in the case of fingerprint evidence, which has long been portrayed by popular TV shows as being very cut and dried.

Even if a judge were to clearly explain to a jury at the end of a trial that fingerprint forensics are highly subjective and should be taken with a grain of salt, jurors would be very likely to believe a fingerprint expert who says a particular set of prints belongs to a particular defendant.

If this is the case - and the most qualified people to determine if it would seem to be judges and other legal scholars - such evidence cannot fairly be admitted.

Mr. Fleming implores us as citizens to do something about this ruling, for although today it is his family that has to cope with its effects, tomorrow it might be ours.

Unfortunately, he does not consider the opposite proposition - that our families might have to cope with the effects of an opposite ruling.

What if I or a loved one were falsely accused of a crime and a fingerprint “expert” places my prints at the scene of a crime?

What recourse would I have?

Such was the recent horror of Brandon Mayfield, an American lawyer who was falsely connected to the Madrid bombings by fingerprint evidence.

I don’t claim to be sure that fingerprint forensics does not live up to the admissibility standards of evidence law in Maryland. I am merely a second-year law student studying evidence law for the first time.

I do, however, know that judges and others in our legal system are charged with protecting the innocent and fairly prosecuting the guilty. And that people in positions like Judge Souder’s must prevent the introduction of what they perceive as untrustworthy evidence, even if the results of such a ruling are less than ideal.

As the old saying about free speech goes, “I may hate what you’re saying, but I’ll fight for your right to say it.”

Similarly, I may hate that seemingly guilty people get off, but I will fight any attempt to unfairly prosecute them.

Aaron Gavant Pikesville

Aaron states that: “— and the most qualified people to determine if it is (admissible I assume) would seem to be judges and other legal scholars - such evidence cannot fairly be admitted.” What Aaron fails to point out is that Judge Souder’s ruling stands alone as opposed to the acceptance of fingerprint evidence is every other court in the United States and the courts of the World, perhaps a trivial point. Also Aaron hopefully will learn in law school that the opinions of “legal scholars”, do not establish the admissibility of evidence.

Editorial comments by Bill Leo

One Experts Opinion

The Madrid Bombing Erroneous Fingerprint Identification

By Gary W. Jones

Now that Brandon Mayfield has been awarded two million dollars and given an apology from the FBI, it's time for those of us in the discipline of fingerprints to pause, take a look at the Madrid erroneous identification matter and judge its present and future impact.

On March 11, 2004, terrorists exploded several bombs on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain. These bombs killed 200 people and injured 1800 more. The Spanish National Police (SNP) developed fingerprints on a plastic bag containing detonators. The SNP, through INTERPOL, transmitted digital photographs of the latent fingerprints to the FBI Latent Print Unit in Quantico, Virginia for assistance in identifying them.

One of the latent fingerprints was entered into the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and subsequently misidentified by three FBI Fingerprint Specialists as a finger impression of Brandon-Mayfield. You may access more details about this matter at www.onin.com/fp.

Mistakes in fingerprint identification, regardless of any excuses offered, are always (in my opinion) the result of one or more of the following six factors:

- Carelessness
- Lack of proper training
- Inexperience
- Lack of ability
- Peer Pressure
- Failure to follow proper procedures

Throughout the history of fingerprint identification there have been, of course, many instances of erroneous identifications. The major differences in the Madrid bombing case are: (1) the level of experience of the examiners who made the erroneous identification; (2) the high profile case in which the error occurred; (3) the agency that employed the examiners. Additionally, individual erroneous identifications are usually limited to one or two examiners. This one involved at least four, when you consider the court-appointed private expert who also agreed with the identification.

In an instant this error became front page news all over the world. For at least seven decades, the FBI Latent Print Unit was considered by many, and rightly so, as the final authority in fingerprint analysis. As a former member of this unit it pains me to say this, but unfortunately, due in part to this incident, that time is past. This incident not only tarnished the reputations and credibility of the three FBI examiners who were directly involved, but also (fairly or unfairly) the FBI Latent Print Unit as a whole. More importantly, it also unnecessarily brought into question the scientific validity of fingerprint identification. It is a fact that fingerprint identification is based upon sound and proven scientific principles, however the Madrid matter has given ammunition to those who would snipe at the foundation of our science.

The question resulting from this Madrid mess is, "What does it mean to the average fingerprint examiner when presenting testimony at trial" The simple hard truth is that this matter has placed a tremendous burden upon all members of the fingerprint community and it will remain for the foreseeable future. It has become a common issue raised at trial by the defense when cross-examining any latent print examiner. As a matter of fact, it has become so common that many prosecutors will confront the issue during direct examination of the fingerprint expert. They will do this in the hope of defusing its impact prior to it being brought up by the defense attorney during cross examination.

Recently, in Bartow, Florida, there was a quadruple murder trial (broadcast on Court TV) in which a crucial portion of the evidence consisted of latent fingerprints developed on parking receipts and identified as being those of the defendant. The following portion of the cross-examination (verbatim) took place between the defense attorney and a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) fingerprint expert:

Question: You told Mr. Augero that you were aware of the Madrid bombing case. Does the name Brandon Mayfield associate with that to you?

Answer: Yes, it is.

Question: That was the poor fellow that was a Muslim lawyer from out on the west coast of the United States, wasn't he?

Answer: Please repeat the question.

Question: He was a lawyer from the west coast of the United States?

Answer: Yes.

Question: He was also a Muslim, wasn't he?

Answer: I have no information...

Question: You haven't read that in detail?

Answer: No, I do not.

Question: And the fingerprints identified as being his were on some bombing materials found at the train station in Madrid. Correct?

Answer: I read that it was a plastic bag.

Question: A part of the bombing material.

Answer: I believe so.

Question: And, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reviewed that and made the same mistake three times before being convinced they were in error in identifying Mr. Mayfield. Correct?

Answer: That is correct.

Question: Do you know how much money, by the way, the FBI finally paid Mr. Mayfield for what they did to him?

Prosecution: Objection.

Defense: I'll withdraw it.

The FDLE examiner handled the line of questioning as well as possible and did an excellent job of presenting her entire testimony. Just remember that you are not responsible for explaining the mistakes of others. If you were a doctor on the witness stand and the attorney asked you how another doctor, while performing surgery, could have mistaken an appendix for a gall bladder, you would reply, "I don't know. You would have to ask that doctor. All I can tell you is that I have never mistaken an appendix for a gall bladder." It's the same principle in this matter.

The following are not from the previously mentioned trial, but are just examples of questions that might be asked:

Scenario 1

Question: Are you aware of the erroneous identification of a latent finger print by not one, but three FBI fingerprint experts?

Answer: Yes, I am.

Question: How did that happen?

Answer: I was not involved in the case, therefore I would have no idea how it occurred. You would have to ask the examiners involved. All I can testify to is that I have never made an erroneous identification and I follow procedures that prevent that from occurring.

Scenario 2

Question: Are you aware of the erroneous identification of a latent fingerprint by not one, but three FBI fingerprint experts?

Answer: Yes, I am.

Question: You have previously testified that you were positive that the latent fingerprint in this case was the same as a fingerprint of my client. If three FBI fingerprint experts can make a mistake, why can't you?

Answer: I can't explain how the FBI experts misidentified a latent fingerprint. I only know that it was an extremely unusual occurrence and initially involved a low-resolution digital image of a latent fingerprint. The latent fingerprint in this case is clear and is an original image.

As you can see there are really no standard or definitive answers to these questions that might be asked at trial. The defense attorney will attempt to associate the latent fingerprint and the circumstances in the Madrid case with those in your case. You need to do your best to separate the two and describe the differences. I strongly urge all latent print examiners to study the details of the Madrid bombing case as they pertain to the erroneous identification. Be prepared to confront this issue when it is inevitably raised at trial. There are lessons here for all fingerprint examiners:

When effecting or verifying a latent print identification, never be influenced by anything other than the prints themselves. Without being hamstrung with caution, never be reluctant to say "No." Be extremely careful when considering ridge structure (Level 3) during the comparison process. A moment of poor judgment can ruin a reputation earned through a lifetime of accomplishments.

As I mentioned before, the Madrid erroneous identification fiasco is going to be with us from now on - we may as well get used to it.

About the author:

Gary Jones is a retired FBI Supervisory Fingerprint Specialist.

He presently operates a private fingerprint consulting service in Summerfield, FL.

You may visit his web site at www.garywjones.com.

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SWGFAST
www.swgfast.org

In regards to: SWGFAST Document Review

One of the crucial requirements for community guidelines and standards is that they are subject to peer review. Currently there are seven existing SWGFAST guidelines that are due for a mandated five year review. There is also one new standard proposal on the examination of simultaneous friction ridge impressions which is being posted as a draft for comment. The friction ridge examination community at large is encouraged to participate in this critical process by scrutinizing the below listed documents and submitting any recommendations for changes prior to April 11, 2008.

Documents for Five-Year Review - Draft for Comment

Friction Ridge Digital Imaging Guidelines_1.0

Validation of Research and Technology_1.0

Guidelines for Professional Conduct_1.0

Friction Ridge Examination Methodology for Latent Print Examiners_1.01

Minimum Qualifications for Latent Print Examiner Trainees 2.1

Training to Competency for Latent Print Examiners_2.1

Friction Ridge Automation Training Guidelines_1.1

DRAFT FOR COMMENT - (New Standard Proposal)

Standards for Latent Print Examinations Involving Two or More Friction Ridge Impressions as a Simultaneous Impression_1.0

The documents and procedures for submitting comments are posted at www.swgfast.org.

All submitted comments will be considered by SWGFAST as the work on each document is completed. Please note that for logistical reasons an individual response to each submission is not returned.

Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated.

Leonard Butt, Chair
Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge
Analysis, Study and Technology

IAI Position concerning Latent Fingerprint Identification

The International Association for Identification (IAI) is the world's oldest and largest organization of forensic science professionals. Founded in 1915, the IAI represents some 6,900 practitioners in seventy five countries. Among other things, the IAI is committed to: encouraging research in the area of the science of fingerprint identification, advancing the relevant sciences, providing training and education to practitioners and guidance to academia and government on issues concerning forensic science disciplines.

The IAI fully supports the principle that finger, palm, and footprints (friction skin detail) are unique to each and every individual. This principle has been well established through the biological sciences of anatomy, embryology and genetics. These unique anatomical features, which are formed prior to birth are persistent throughout one's life until some time after death; have become the foundation upon which the individualization of a fingerprint to a single person becomes scientifically accepted and legally defensible. Friction skin information has been used internationally to identify and exclude sources of finger, palm, and foot impressions in criminal and civil proceedings by the relevant scientific community for more than a century. The use of the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) provides additional support for the unique nature of friction skin detail searches. Since the advent of such systems some thirty years ago, hundreds of thousands of computer searches of fingerprint databases have been and continue to be conducted twenty-four hours a day each and every day. As yet, no two fingerprints from different individuals have ever been found to be the same. Additionally, numerous studies have been conducted over the years by the medical research and the forensic science communities, the results of these studies collectively supporting the theory of biological uniqueness and persistence as it is currently applied to the individualization of friction skin. As with all

sciences, continued research is not only advisable but mandated for the science to continue its level of acceptance in the scientific and legal arenas. However, the fact that research is ongoing in no way invalidates the past or current practice of the science by those competent professional forensic practitioners who have successfully applied it as a means of identifying perpetrators of crime and exonerating the innocent.

The IAI endorses the position that individuals may be identified as the source of a particular friction skin impression through the correct Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification (referred to within the profession as the ACE-V methodology) of the friction skin detail by competent examiners. The IAI acknowledges the concern of some observers who believe, though incorrectly, that the individualization of an unknown friction skin impression to impressions from a known individual is somehow different when comparing impressions representative of the entire finger or palm versus a partial impression. This is a flawed presupposition often cited by those with no practical experience in the fingerprint science, incomplete knowledge of the applied discipline, and or a lack of understanding of the basic principles involved. Qualified examiners know that the process is the same in both instances and the threshold for individualization is dependent on the quality and quantity of information available in and not the size of the unknown impression.

The IAI acknowledges that the practice of the friction skin comparison discipline is not free from error. This opinion is in concurrence with the National Research Council's position on the issue of error rate as described in their assessment of forensic DNA, and believes this to be applicable to the forensic science of fingerprints¹.

(Continued on page 10)

1 ISBN 0-309-05395-1 1. Forensic genetics. I. National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on DNA Technology in Forensic Science: an Update. II. National Research Council (U.S.). Commission on DNA Technology in Forensic Science: an Update. RA1057.5.E94 1996 614'.1—dc2O 96-25364

President's Message

My heartfelt appreciation is extended to the membership of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers for providing not only myself, but the entire Executive Board the opportunity to continue to take SCAFO forward as a professional association, an association on the move since 1937.

Our attendance at the December 1st meeting was totally awesome. Those members present truly showed their commitment to the oath they took upon being sworn in as an equal member. Numerous members brought their spouses and/or friends and colleagues!

Everyone politely listened to my presentation on court testimony techniques! Afterwards, **Barbie (Pominville) Beghtol**, past president (1979), presided over the swearing in of ten new members.

Alan McRoberts, webmaster and past president (1991), continues to maintain a superior website. I strongly urge you all to visit the SCAFO website periodically. Back issues of *The Print* are available for one's perusal. In particular please review the Jan/Feb 2004 issue. In his message, **Edwardo Palma**, Past President (2004) openly asks himself why he joined the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers.

To paraphrase his response: Membership in SCAFO provides unique and challenging professional opportunities for any one who has "sworn to duty to carry forward SCAFO's commitments, traditions and cultures." The 2008 Executive Board will continue to uphold the reputation of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers as a leader in the forensic field of fingerprint identification.

We must extend our gratitude to the 2007 Executive Board for their outstanding service to the association. With **Susan Garcia**, Past President (2006) as Chairperson, and **Craig Johnson** as President, the association couldn't go wrong. It was a fantastic year for SCAFO, with lots of positive forward movement!

Amy Hines, our new 1st Vice President, coordinated the successful 16th annual SCAFO Training Conference at the Riverside Convention Center. The entire Executive Board, as well as many members and vendors assisted in ensuring the event's success.

Mari Johnson, our new 2nd Vice President, provided the membership with another year of a superb performance as the association's Secretary, a very demanding position. **Teri Eklund**, has been elected to fulfill the Secretary position. Got Dues?

Lisa DiMeo completed another taxing, no pun intended, term as Treasurer. She continued to keep an accurate accounting of the association's monies. **Debbie Stivers** has been elected to the challenges of the Treasurer's position.

Amy Adams was elected as Sergeant At Arms. This Board position requires her to maintain order during meetings, and assist the Treasurer.

Lisa Jackson and **Mariah Dennstedt** will continue to provide guidance to the Executive Board Both of them will serve as Senior Directors. They will mentor **Cindee Lozano** and **Lawrence Rodriguez**, our two newly elected Junior Directors.

Steve Tillmann, our distinguished Editor of *The Print* and past president (2002) announced his desire to 'retire' from the position as Editor. **Barbara Maestas** has accepted an internship position with Steve, with the possibility of running for election as Editor next year. This position requires diligence and personal flexibility. *The Print* continues to receive regional acclaim, and international attention.

Clark Fogg, our Parliamentarian, and past president (1994) has been providing Executive Boards with distinguished service for many years. He has decided it's time to pass the reins. The Executive Board had made a decision that the outgoing Chairperson serves a one year term as the Parliamentarian. **Susan Garcia** will now provide counsel to the Executive Board in the capacity of Parliamentarian.

Craig Johnson has accepted the position of Chairperson, thus providing the Executive Board with exceptional knowledge and oversight.

Our renowned **William 'Bill' Leo**, Historian, and past president (1996) will continue to document the historical events of SCAFO with exceptional dedication.

Let us not forget the service provided by countless members, their spouses, other family members and friends throughout the year – at our bi-monthly training meetings and the annual training conference.

To conclude, I respectfully request all members to join with the Executive Board in fulfilling the oath of membership that we all accepted. Please attend all meetings when you are able to do so. We will continue to honor the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers Code of Ethics statement.

We look forward to your attendance at our April 12th training meeting, hosted by Director Cindee Lozano, at which Past President Bill Leo will speak on recent comments made in courts of law on fingerprint comparison issues.

Faternally,

Marvin A. Spreyne

Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers

An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937

Marvin Spreyne, President

Next Training Meeting: Saturday, April 12, 2008

‘PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT’

5:30 pm: Registration / Social Hour
6:15 pm: Dinner \$30 per person
7:15 pm: Training / Business Meeting
Dress Attire: Professional

SPEAKER:

William ‘Bill’ Leo, *Los Angeles Sheriff’s Office*

TOPIC:

Recent Comments in Courts on Fingerprint Comparisons



Cask ‘n Cleaver Steakhouse

1333 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 951-682-4580

(Located two blocks west of the 60/215 Freeway at the University Ave. Exit.)

Menu: Entrees, choice of Top Sirloin (Midwestern Corn-Fed), **Teriyaki Chicken** (boneless double breast), **Tilapia Al Carbon**, **Veggie Plate**; all entrees include Caesar Salad; Fresh Vegetables, Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Beverage; ice cream

RSVP to Director Cindee Lozano at clozano@yahoo.com* or 714-420-2046*

*RSVP with name(s), menu selection(s) and callback number

RSVP Deadline is Wednesday, April 9th, 5:00 pm

“remember, if you make the reservation, you make a commitment”

IAI Position concerning Latent Fingerprint Identification (Continued):

To propose the argument that the applied methodology (ACE-V method) is unreliable because of such errors is misplaced logic. First, most of these errors may be attributed to the improper application of the methodology, the competence of the examiner or subjective influences. Second, errors are corrected by applying the ACE-V method correctly. One can not claim that a method is unreliable and then rely on the same method to detect and rectify the error. Though an accurate approach to numerically quantifying an error rate for friction skin individualizations has yet to be determined, it is generally held by practitioners, scientists, and legal authorities that the error rate for fingerprint identification is extremely small, statistically insignificant, and not due to the methodology but instead to the inherent risk of error in any human endeavor.

The reliability of any forensic science discipline is best controlled by the adherence to established scientific and quality assurance practices. The IAI acknowledges the existence and importance of standards and guidelines and encourages all agencies and practitioners performing forensic latent print examinations to adhere to these principles. Further, the IAI recognizes the benefits of accreditation and certification for agencies and practitioners. It encourages agencies performing forensic latent print examinations to obtain accreditation and promotes the certification of examiners through the IAI's Certified Latent Print Examiner (CLPE) program. Participation in such programs ensures confidence that the laboratory is practicing sound examinations through adherence to established quality assurance practices.

Fingerprint examiners state their conclusions as a matter of opinion as is the practice with many other forensic disciplines. They are ethically and professionally required to offer their opinions only when they are absolutely confident of their conclusions and in the procedures and methods used in the process. Stating their conclusions with

any less certainty or offering an opinion on identity based on general or class characteristics may allow for a misinterpretation of results by juries and judges. The IAI recognizes that it is a tactic employed by opposing counsel in our judicial system and others who may lack sufficient knowledge, training and experience, to question the reliability of the forensic sciences particularly that of friction skin impression examinations. This is to be expected since it is part of an adversarial judicial system. The objective of these tactics is to misrepresent factual data, offer incomplete or misleading data, or attempt to create confusion. Therefore to clarify the collective opinion of the profession at large concerning the ACE-V methodology and the principles involved in the individualization of friction skin, the following statement is offered: The International Association for Identification steadfastly supports and promotes the continued and proper application of the science of friction ridge skin individualization.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING CONTINUED:

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Craig Johnson

Second: Larry Rodriguez

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1445 hours

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING

New Member: Josie Mejia LASD

DATE: December 1, 2007
LOCATION: JT Schmid's Restaurant
HOST: Marvin Spreyne
SECRETARY: Mari Johnson
PROGRAM: Expert Court Testimony
CALL TO ORDER: General meeting, 1410 hours by President Craig Johnson
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Lead by Past President Susan Garcia
ATTENDANCE:

PAST PRESIDENTS: Barbie Beghtol (1979), Tim Golt (1992), Steve Tillmann (2002), Ed Palma (2004), and Susan Garcia (2006).

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Craig Johnson, Marvin Spreyne, Amy Hines, Mari Johnson, Lisa DiMeo, Lisa Jackson, Teri Ecklund, Mariah Dennstedt, Amy Adams, Steve Tillmann, and Debbie Stivers.

EXECUTIVE BOARD Absent: Clark Fogg and Bill Leo

Members and guests present: 87

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Readings:

Candidate: Alex Pecorari Status: Active
Candidate: Nakia Porter Status: Active
Candidate: Mecy Dye Status: Active
Motion to Accept: Susan Garcia
Second: Steve Tillmann

Swear Ins: None

by Barbie Beghtol
New Member: Jill A. Padilla Ontario P.D
New Member: Kanani Raspberry LASD
New Member: Sylvia A. Romero LASD
New Member: Allison Murphy Orange County
New Member: Cristina G. Golowaty of SDPD
New Member: Jean Pominville Downey P.D
New Member: Jessica Almeida SDPD
New Member: Leslie Hodowanec Santa Ana PD
New Member: Linda S. Martin Escondido PD

NEW BUSINESS:

First Readings

Towanda Fleeer-Sauer San Diego County Sheriff's
Recommended by: Lynn Collins
Alberto Solis Los Angeles County Sheriff's.
Recommended by: Anne Carlson
Robby Sinick Santa Barbara Sheriff's.
Recommended by: Larry Rodriguez
Audrey Fober Orange County Sheriff's .
Recommended by: Martin Vaca
Gloria Avala San Diego Police Department
Recommended by Susan Lindgren
Mimna Shen Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Recommended by Anne Carlson
Debora Childress Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Recommended by Anne Carlson

OTHER:

Craig Johnson presented our new President, Marvin Spreyne, with his gavel and turned the meeting over to him. Marvin thanked Craig for all his hard work and presented him with a plaque to display the gavel he used during his service as President.

The Executive Board members for 2008 were sworn in by Past President Ed Palma. Marvin Spreyne President, Amy Hines First Vice President, Mari Johnson Second Vice President, Teri Ecklund Secretary, Amy Adams Sergeant at Arms, four Directors Lisa Jackson, Mariah Dennstedt, Cindee Lozano, and Larry Rodriguez, Bill Leo Historian, Debbie Stivers Treasurer, Steve Tillmann Editor, and Craig Johnson Chairman of the Board and Susan Garcia Parliamentarian.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is going to have a Latent Print examiner spot opening

ATTENDANCE DRAWING \$25.00:

Po Wong

DOOR PRIZES:

Provided by Sandy Enslow from Forensic Factory (www.forensicfactory.com) donated several items. Check out the website there are some great things. DJ Designs and all the board members donated door prizes also.

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908

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\$25.00 yearly membership

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**ADVANCED LATENT PRINT COMPARISON
AND IDENTIFICATION COURSE**

APRIL 7-10, 2008

**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING
CENTER
MCCLELLAN, CALIF.**

**INSTRUCTOR:
FBI SA MIKE STAPLETON (RETIRED)
(916) 939-2211**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
WWW.FORENSICSRUS.COM**

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SCAFO Members:
Get "yourname@scafo.org".
See instructions on the
website's email page.

-- Upcoming Events/Schools/Seminars--

April 12, 2008

SCAFO Training Meeting
Riverside, CA

May 4-8, 2008

CSDIAI Annual Training Conference
Ontario, CA

August 17-23, 2008

I.A.I. Annual Educational Conference
Louisville, Ky



*Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937*