Documentation: Adding ACE-V to benchnotes

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In this day and age of laboratory certifications and accreditations, it is important for the fingerprint and all pattern evidence examiners to adequately document all aspects of an examination. Documenting the analysis, comparison and evaluation phases of examination, until recently, was not done by many, if any, examiners. With SWGFAST’s recent documentation requirements, it is vital for fingerprint examiners, as well as all pattern evidence examiners, to properly document all steps taken that assisted in forming conclusions. This workshop primary focus is fingerprint examination and will provide an overview of the history of fingerprint court cases that has lead the fingerprint community to require more documentation. This workshop will also provide various examples of how to document the examination process.

Biography

M. Leanne Gray is a Certified Latent Print Examiner and a Certified Footwear Examiner with the International Association of Identification (IAI). She has worked at a state-level crime laboratory since 1986, initially specializing in latent print & footwear examinations. She has acted as a bench analyst and quality assurance coordinator for both the latent print and footwear sections at her state-level laboratory system. In addition, she has acted as a training coordinator, being responsible for training all aspects of latent print examination. In all, she was responsible for some or all aspects of training of eleven latent print trainees during her tenure as an acting training coordinator with the state-level crime laboratory. Currently, she acts as a section advisory chairperson for the footwear section at the same state-level crime laboratory, while also working cases in both latent print and footwear examinations. She has provided testimony at the municipal, state and federal levels for both fingerprint as well as footwear examinations in over 100 cases during her career. She also continues to provide training at her state-level crime laboratory for new crime scene investigators, specifically in the areas of fingerprint and footwear processing and photography.

In 2006, she started her private business, providing training and consultation to law enforcement agencies as well as private contractual work. She has taught classes for the DEA, the USSS as well as having taught for the past six years at the International Association for Identification’s Educational Conferences. She has also taught for state-level divisions of the IAI, the Honolulu Police Department, Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists and lectured at a MorphoTrak Safran Group Users Conference. She has published articles in the Journal of Forensic Identification as well as Fingerprint World. She is also the author of the chapter on Quality Assurance in ‘The Sourcebook’.

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