# ALAMO AREA FORENSIC LABS

4120 RUNNING SPRINGS • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78261

FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT PHOTOGRAPHY BOARD CERTIFIED • COURT QUALIFIED

830-980-4083 FAX 830-980-4076 WWW.MICKLITZ.COM

January 17, 2002

Mr. Bob Denison 320 N. Main, Suite 100 Buda, Texas 78610

Phone: 512-295-7338 Fax: 512-295-7338

Re: Questioned signature of Ida Baldwin Denison on a Will dated July 8, 1997.

Retainer Date: January 5, 2002

Method of Submission: Personal delivery

Evidence Received: A photocopy<sup>1</sup> of the document in question; photocopies of known writing exemplars of Ida Baldwin Denison, John Denison and Sonia Denison, as set forth on the attached Exhibit No. 1.

Requested Analysis: To determine, if possible, whether or not the signature Ida Baldwin Denison on the document in question was executed under undue influence.

Examination Conducted: A careful and thorough study was made of the exemplars provided and identified as the known signature of Ida Baldwin Denison. A comparison of the signature on the exemplars with the signature on the document in question was then made in order to determine if the changes in the signature evidenced stress, anxiety, undue influence and/or the effects of drugs.

<u>Handwriting Principles Applied</u>: An expert must adhere to the principles of his/her trade. The following principles were subscribed to in order to reach a conclusion.

<sup>1.</sup> Rule which requires that the best evidence available be presented in lieu of less satisfactory evidence. This rule prohibits the introduction into evidence of secondary evidence unless it is shown that the original document has been lost or destroyed or is beyond jurisdiction of the court without fault of the offering party; if original document is lost, then secondary evidence is properly admissible. *Black's Law Dictionary*, Abridged Sixth Edition, 1991.

Mr. Bob Denison Re: Ida Baldwin Denison January 17, 2002

Page Two

A distorted signature may indicate that the signature was written under duress or under the influence of alcohol or another drug. Signatures written under stress bear indisputable slips which make it possible to establish that fact. In such a condition, we find trembling lines and uncertain strokes. A signature or even a word written under stress never shows fluent writing. There are interruptions, not only between single letters, but also in the body of a letter. Sometimes repetitions or omissions, or corrections or overwriting are made.

Certain drugs paralyze the sense of criticism, fogging the memory and inhibiting all sense of conscience. A person under the influence of these drugs acts in a manner totally foreign to his normal character and personality. This condition will be evidenced by unmistakable signs in his handwriting; the signs are very slow writing, interruptions between letters, sometimes letters which are broken, incorrect spelling of one's own name or of simple words, or correct spelling but confusion in the text. Disputed Documents, Hanna F. Sulner

Pathological factors are extremely valuable as circumstantial evidence, for a very decisive relationship exists between the mind and the handwriting of individuals. This feature of mind and handwriting is apparent where the handwriting indicates some neurotic disturbance, emotional strain or excitement, any one of which factors may cause abnormal writing.

Proceeding on the basis that all impulses directing action come from the intellectual faculty of the individual and that every movement, therefore, is controlled by his mental condition, it is indisputably true that a person's mental condition must have a very decisive influence on the character of his writing. An abnormal condition of the mind at a particular moment when he is engaged in writing must disturb the coordinate action of the muscles, thus registering the mental disturbances in the signature. Law of Disputed and Forged Documents, J. Newton Baker.

That drugs can affect the quality of handwriting is a well-known fact. The number of drugs that affect handwriting seems endless and many changes in writing from the use of drugs are similar to the writing characteristics of ill or intoxicated persons. Any drug that affects the central nervous system is likely to affect the refined motor skill required for writing. When a writer is mentally preoccupied with anxiety, worry, fear, strain, stress, elation or is downcast with depression, writing can be affected. Fundamentals of Document Examination, Edna W. Robertson.

Mr. Bob Denison

Re: Ida Baldwin Denison

January 17, 2002 Page Three

Results of Analysis: The comparison analysis of the signature on the questioned document with the known exemplars provided and identified as the handwriting characteristics of Ida Baldwin Denison revealed evidence of anxiety, repetitions and the misspelling of her own name.

Conclusion: The following opinion, rendered with reasonable scientific certainty, is based upon a complete and thorough examination of the documents submitted for this purpose. Any conclusions resulting therefrom can be based only upon the data submitted and the examination of the same. The examination of any non-originals is qualified and subject to verification of the original documents.

Based on the application of the handwriting principles given in this report, the signature Ida Baldwin Denison on the document in question evidences repetitions, misspelling, anxiety and stress.

Summary: It is my professional opinion that the signature Ida Baldwin Denison was executed under undue stress or duress and/or under the influence of drugs.

Reliability Testing: Four things contribute to a reliable conclusion for an expert's opinion in forensic document examination. 1) Physical observations are accurately and objectively demonstrated. 2) The explanation of scientific theories is reasonable and based on proper theory and objective sources. 3) Crisp and impeccable logic is applied. 4) Precise definitions of terminology are used.

<u>Statement of Qualifications</u>: Enclosed with this report is a copy of my current qualifications setting forth my education, training and experience which qualify me to undertake the examination requested and render the opinions given in this report.

Handwriting Opinion Terminology: Attached to this report is a copy of the standard handwriting opinion terminology taken from the Journal of Forensic Sciences, Letters to the Editor, March 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Micklitz, CDE, BCFE

Forensic Document Examiner

Enclosure

Re: Ida Baldwin Denison

## EXHIBIT NO. 1

Photocopy<sup>2</sup> of the following documents:

## Questioned Document:

Last Will and Testament of Ida Baldwin Denison, dated July 8, 1997. Q1

# Known Writing of Ida Baldwin Denison:

Statutory Durable Power of Attorney, dated June 23, 1997. K1

Check Nos. 1422, 1436, 1437, 1439, 1443, 1445, 1446, 1451, 1452, 1511, 1514, 1517, 1518, drawn on the account of Baldwin Ranch Special K2 c/o Ida Baldwin Denison.

## Known Writing of John Denison:

A three-page document listing expenses for several months of 1998, K3 represented to have been written by John Denison.

A handwritten note addressed to "Bobby" and signed "Johnny." K4

A hand addressed envelope to "Bob Denison" with a return address for K5 "John Denison" bearing a post mark of 1997.

Check Nos. 1449, 1450 and 1519, drawn on the account of Baldwin Ranch K6 Special c/o Ida Baldwin Denison.

## Known Writing of Sonia Denison:

A three-page document listing expenses for May, June and July 2000, K7 represented to have been written by Sonia Denison.

<sup>2.</sup> Rule which requires that the best evidence available be presented in lieu of less satisfactory evidence. This rule prohibits the introduction into evidence of secondary evidence unless it is shown that the original document has been lost or destroyed or is beyond jurisdiction of the court without fault of the offering party; if original document is lost, then secondary evidence is properly admissible. Black's Law Dictionary, Abridged Sixth Edition, 1991.

#### **CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that, except as otherwise noted in the Report to which this Certificate is attached:

- 1. I have no present or prospective interest in the subject of the Report, or in the use of the Report.
- 2. I have no personal acquaintance, knowledge, interest or bias with respect to the parties mentioned in the Report.
- 3. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements of facts contained in the Report, upon which the analyses, opinions, and conclusions expressed in the Report are based on the evidence presented to me, are true, correct and reliable to the best of my knowledge.
- 4. The analyses, opinions, and conclusions set forth in the Report are my personal, unbiased professional analyses, opinions and conclusions and are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions set forth in the Report.
- 5. No one other than the undersigned prepared the analyses, conclusions, and opinions concerning the documents that are set forth in the Report.
- 6. My conclusions are set forth in the Report and are not contingent on an action or event resulting from the analyses, opinions, or conclusions in, or the use of, the Report.
- 7. My analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed and this Report has been prepared in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Document Examiners as promulgated by The National Association of Document Examiners, the Code of Professional Ethics of The National Association of Document Examiners and the American Board of Forensic Examiners.

Kay Micklitz, CDE, BCFE Forensic Document Examiner 4120 Running Springs

4120 Running Springs San Antonio, Texas 78261

Tel. 830.980.4083 Fax 830.980.4076

# HANDWRITING OPINION TERMINOLOGY<sup>3</sup>

**Identification** (definite conclusion of identity): This is the highest degree of confidence expressed by document examiners in handwriting comparisons.

Strong probability (highly probably, very probable): The evidence is very persuasive, yet some critical feature or quality is missing so that an identification is not in order; however, the examiner is virtually certain that the questioned and known writings were written by the same individual.

**Probable:** The evidence contained in the handwriting points rather strongly toward the questioned and known writings having been written by the same individual; however, it falls short of the "virtually certain" degree of confidence.

Indications (evidence to suggest): A body of writing has few features which are of significance for handwriting comparison purposes, but those features are in agreement with another body of writing.

**No conclusion** (totally inconclusive, indeterminable): This is the zero point of the confidence scale. It is used when there are significantly limiting factors, such as disguise in the questioned and/or known writing or a lack of comparable writing, and the examiner - does not have even a leaning one way or another.

Indications did not: This carries the same weight as the indications term above; that is, it is a very weak opinion.

**Probably did not:** The evidence points rather strongly against the questioned and known writings having been written by the same individual, but, as in the probably range above, the evidence is not quite up to the "virtually certain" range requisite.

Strong probability did not (highly probable did not, very probable did not): This carries the same weight as strong probability on the identification side of the scale; that is, there is a virtual certainty that the questioned and known writings were not written by the same individual.

**Eliminations:** This, like the definite conclusion of identity, is the highest degree of confidence expressed by the document examiner in handwriting comparison. By using this expression, the examiner denotes no doubt in his opinion that the questioned and known writings were not written by the same individual.

Journal of Forensic Sciences, Letters to the Editor, March 1991.

## Kay Micklitz

Forensic Document Examiner - Board Certified - Court Qualified
4120 Running Springs
San Antonio, Texas 78261
830-980-4083 - Fax 830-980-4076

#### CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Board Certified Document Examiner, National Association of Document Examiners (NADE)
- Apprenticed to Katherine Mainolfi Koppenhaver, CDE & Past President of the National Association of Document Examiners
- Board Certified Forensic Examiner, American Board of Forensic Examiners (BCFE)
- Diplomate, American Board of Forensic Examiners (DABFE)
- Fellow, American College of Forensic Examiners (FACFE)
- American Institute of Applied Science (AIAS), completed the Questioned Document Section and the Police Photography Section of the A.I.A.S. Forensic Science Program,
- The National Questioned Document Association (NQDA). Completed the Basic Course in Forensic Document Examination through NQDA. Certified by the State of Oklahoma
- Paralegal Certificate. University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)
- State Licensed Instructor, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education

#### PRIOR RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Five years as a Paralegal with Biodynamic Research Corporation. Litigation support services.
- 10 Years free lance legal secretary. Litigation primary practice.

### HAVE GIVEN OPINIONS ON THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF CASES

•	Disputed Wills	Internal Sabotage	Securities Fraud
•	Anonymous Hate Notes	Medical Authorizations	Internal Theft
•	Death Threats	Real Estate Documents	Graffiti
•	Sexual Harassment Letters	Child Custody Dispute	Patemity Suits
•	Forged Checks	Poison Pen Letters	Prescription Fraud
•	Typewriter Identification	Security Agreements	Bank Signature Cards
•	Lease Agreements	Proctor Sign-In Logs	Insurance Beneficiaries
•	Disguised Signatures	Credit Card Receipts	Motor Vehicle Purchase Order
•	Altered Medical Records	Credit Disability Application	Gift Tax Returns
•	Thermal Paper Recovery	Contract Agreements	Divorce Papers

#### **CLIENTS**

Attorneys throughout the States of Texas,
Florida, West Virginia & New York
Corporations/Securities Companies
U.S. Army Medical Command
Fabricating & Manufacturing Cos

Fannie Mae/Savings & Loan	S
District Attorneys Office	
Banks/Financial Institutions	
Medical Doctors/Dentist	
Marketing Companies	

Womens Shelter Hospital/Medical Clinics Auto Dealers Nursing Facilities Insurance Companies

> Kay Micklitz Curriculum Vitae Page 1 of 3

### APPOINTMENTS

- 2001: U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division
- 2001: U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
- 2000: District Court, Comal County, Texas
- 2000: District Court, Victoria County, Texas
- 2000: Bexar County Court at Law No. 1, San Antonio, Texas
- 2000: U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
- 1999: U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
- 1999: Bexar County Court at Law No. 7, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998: Court of Criminal Appeals, Austin, Texas
- 1998: Bexar County Court at Law No. 6, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998: Bexar County Court at Law No. 2, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998: Bexar County Court at Law No. 8, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998: Bexar County Court at Law No. 9, San Antonio, Texas
- 1997: Bexar County Court at Law No. 6, San Antonio, Texas

### RESIDENT TRAINING SEMINARS

- 2001-Printing Process Identification & Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
- 2000-Forgery Investigators Association of Texas, San Antonio, Texas
- 2000-National Questioned Document Association, Dallas, Texas
- 1998-Forgery Investigators Association of Texas, Austin, Texas
- 1997-The National Association of Document Examiners, Las Vegas, Nev. (presenter)
- 1997-Forensic Document Examination Techniques, Dallas, Texas (presenter)
- 1997-Forgery Investigators Association of Texas (FIAT), Georgetown, Texas
- 1996-FBI Examiner, Larry Ziegler Prof. Develop. Seminar/Court Testimony, Baltimore, MD
- 1996-The National Association of Document Examiners (NADE), Baltimore, MD
- 1996-Forgery Investigators Association of Texas (FIAT), San Antonio, Texas
- 1995-The National Association of Document Examiners (NADE), San Antonio, Texas

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Association of Document Examiners
- National Questioned Document Association
- American College of Forensic Examiners
- Forgery Investigators Association of Texas
- International Assn. for Identification, Tx Divn

Texas Association of Licensed Investigators Federal Criminal Investigators Associations Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

#### **BOARD POSITIONS**

- 2002-04- Associate Director, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, San Antonio Chapter
- 2000-02-ByLaws Committee, National Association of Document Examiners
- 1998-02-Editorial Board, Journal of the National Association of Document Examiners
- 1998-00-Associate Director, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, San Antonio Chapter
- 1999 Speaker Program Co-Chair, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, San Antonio
- 1998-99-Board Certification Committee, National Association of Document Examiners

#### PUBLISHED

- 2001 Examination With A Video Spectral Comparator, Journal of the National Association of Document Examiners
- 2000 Digital Examination of a Microfilmed Document, Journal of the National Association of Document Examiners
- 2000 Motion in Limine Precludes Experts' Testimony, Journal of The National Association of Document Examiners
- 1999 Signature Security, American Society for Industrial Security
- 1999 Signature Security, Bexar County Women's Bar Association, Equal Times
- 1999 Theft by Forgery, American Society for Industrial Security
- 1998 Theft by Forgery, Bexar County Women's Bar Association, Equal Times
- 1997 Victimized by Forgery, South Texas Business Crime Council Newsletter
- 1996 A New Technology for Solving Crimes, South Texas Business Crime Council Newsletter

#### INSTRUCTOR

- Texas Peace Officers & Detectives
- Texas Private Investigators & Security Agents
- Psychologists/Psychotherapists
- Private Corporations & Small Businesses
- Family and Marriage Counselors

District Attorneys

D.A. Staff Members

Sheriff Deputies

Private Individuals

Administrators

### LECTURES (partial listing):

- 2002 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, San Antonio Chapter, San Antonio, Texas
- 2001 National Defender Investigation Association, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2001 University of Texas Health Science Center, Toxicology Graduate Class, San Antonio, Texas
- 2000 Institute of Internal Auditors, San Antonio Chapter, San Marcos, Texas
- 2000 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Austin Chapter, Austin, Texas
- 1999 Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, Arlington, Austin & Houston, Texas •
- 1999 American Payroll Association, San Antonio, Texas
- 1999 American Society for Industrial Security, Austin, Texas
- 1999 American Society of Women Accountants, San Antonio, Texas
- 1999 San Antonio CPA Continuing Education Foundation, San Antonio, Texas
- 1999 Federal Criminal Investigators Association, San Antonio, Texas
- 1999 American Society for Industrial Security, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998 Clearing House Association of the Southwest, San Antonio, Texas
- 1998 BATNET Businesses Against Theft Networking, San Antonio, Texas
- 1997 Texas Association of Licensed Investigators, Austin, Texas
- 1997 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, San Antonio, Texas
- 1996 American Society for Industrial Security, San Antonio, Texas

## REFERENCES, PERSONAL EXTENSIVE LIBRARY & LABORATORY

(available upon request)

000236411	No. 1293	
in the matter of	§	IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
THE ESTATE OF	. §	
IDA BALDWIN DENISO	<b>1</b> §	
DECEASED	§	STONEWALL COUNTY, TEXAS

### APPLICATION TO PROBATE WILL

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

NOW COMES, JOHN WAYNE DENISON, and respectfully shows to the Court as follows:

I.

That applicant is a resident of Stonewall County, Texas.

That IDA BALDWIN DENISON, decedent, SS#461-76-3807, died on July 27, 1997, and at the date of her death was sixty-four (64) years of age and had her domicile continuously in Stonewall County, Texas; that four (4) years have not elapsed since her death and prior to this application.

III.

That the venue for this proceeding is in Stonewall County, Texas, in which the decedent had her domicile at the time of her death, and this Court has jurisdiction of this proceeding.

IV.

The decedent owned real and personal property at the time of her death of a value in excess of \$500,000.00.

٧.

Decedent left a will executed in due form and Alice Etheridge and Paul R. Matta of Taylor County, Texas, subscribed their names to said will as witnesses of the execution thereof by the decedent, said will being dated July 8, 1997, and in said will your applicant, JOHN WAYNE DENISON was named Independent Executor without bond.

That no child or children were born to or adopted by decedent after the making of said will.

County/District Cou.

Stonewall Co. Texas

The will does not contain a devise to the State, a governmental agency of the State, or a charitable organization.

#### VIII.

That your applicant, the said JOHN WAYNE DENISON is not disqualified by law from accepting letters testamentary.

WHEREFORE, your applicant prays that citation be issued and served by posting as required by law, and that upon hearing hereof, said will be admitted to probate and that Letters Testamentary be issued to applicant as Independent Executor of said estate, without bond; that if an appraisal of the estate is found necessary, two disinterested persons be appointed to appraise the estate.

JOHN WAYNE DENISON

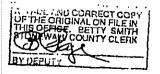
CHARLES E. BROWNFIELD, JR

ATTORNEY AT LAW P.O. BOX 831

STAMFORD, TEXAS 79553

(915) 773-2769

STATE BAR NO. 03218000



John Wayne Denison P.O. Box 19 A Aspermont, Texas 79502

August 22, 1997

### CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Charles E. Brownfield, Jr. Attorney at Law
114 North Swenson Street
Stamford, Texas 79553

RE: Representation of the Estate of Billy Wayne Denison, Deceased, the Estate of Ida Baldwin Denison, Deceased, oil and gas matters on real property owned by the Denisons, and all other legal matters

Dear Mr. Brownfield:

You are hereby notified that you are discharged as attorney for the Estate of Billy Wayne Denison, the Estate of Ida Baldwin Denison, all oil and gas matters on real property owned by the Denisons, and all other legal matters. Although your representation of the Estate of Ida Baldwin Denison was terminated on August 20, 1997, your representation on all legal matters is terminated effective immediately.

You are requested to prepare and file a Withdrawal of Counsel with regard to both Estates and to immediately surrender to me all papers and property you have regarding all of the above matters. Any additional delay in withdrawing from representation will only compound the prejudice you have already caused to the Estates and to my family.

Thank you.

John Wayne Denison

Long J. Doniso

Jounty/District Cou.

Alic 2 6 1997

BETTY L. SMITH, Clerl

IN THE ESTATE OF	\$	IN THE COUNTY COURT
	§	•
IDA BALDWIN DENISON,	S	OF
•	<b>§</b>	- ILEL - ounty/District Cou.
DECEASED	<b>§</b>	STONEWALL COUNTY! COTERES

AUG 2 6 1997

# ORDER PROBATING WILL AND AUTHORIZING LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

BETTY, L. SMITH, Clerk

On this day came on to be heard the Application filed herein by JOHN WAYNE DENISON on August 6, 1997, for the probate of the Will of Ida Baldwin Denison, hereinafter called Decedent, and for the issuance of Letters Testamentary.

The Court, after having heard and considered the evidence, finds that legal notices of the filing of said Application have been issued and posted in the manner and for the length of time required by law, and no one came to contest same; and it further appearing that said Will was self-proved according to law during the lifetime of said Decedent; that Decedent died at Abilene, Taylor County, Texas on July 27, 1997; that this Court has jurisdiction and venue over the estate because Decedent was domiciled in Texas and had a fixed place of residence in Stonewall County, Texas at the time of her death; that four years have not elapsed since the death of Decedent or prior to the said Application; that Decedent, at the time of executing said Will was over eighteen (18) years of age and of sound mind; that said Will was executed on July 8, 1997, with the formalities and solemnities and under the circumstances required by law to make it a valid

Will; that such Will has not been revoked by Decedent; that no state, governmental agency of the state, nor charitable organization is named by the Will as a devisee; that Decedent's Will named Applicant to serve as Executor to act Independently without bond or other security, in which capacity Applicant would not be disqualified by law from serving as such or from accepting Letters Testamentary, and Applicant would be entitled to such Letters.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED AND DECREED by the Court that said Will is hereby proved and established and admitted to probate and recorded as the LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said Ida Baldwin Denison, Deceased, and that JOHN WAYNE DENISON be, and is hereby appointed Independent Executor of said Will and Estate without bond.

upon the Will and Estate of Ida Baldwin Denison, Deceased, be and the same are hereby granted to JOHN WAYNE DENISON upon taking the oath as required by law; and the Clerk is further required to issue Letters Testamentary in accordance with this Order to JOHN WAYNE DENISON when qualified according to law, and no other action shall be had in this Court other than the return of an Inventory, Appraisement and List of Claims as required by law.

signed this ZE day of (luguest, 1997.

JUDGE PRESIDING

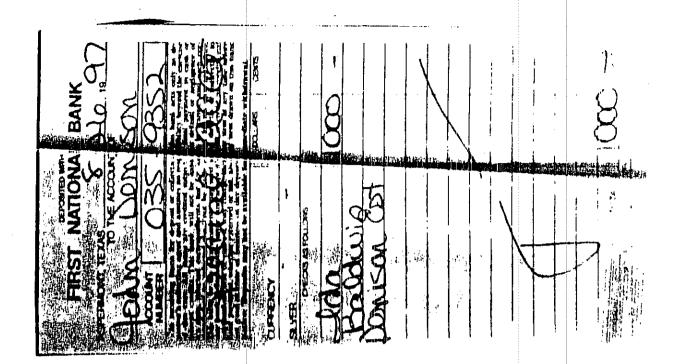
#### APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ţ

CASTRO & DAVIS 212 South Central P.O. Box 608 Hamlin, Texas 79520 915/576-2797 FAX # 915/576-2799

By:

JEANNEY S. DAVIS Actorney for Applicant State Bar No. 00787334



DAY Will is probated John probated FIRST writes FIRST ck TD Himself ck TD Himself