

“I not only use all the brains that I have,  
but all that I can borrow.”

—Woodrow Wilson

## Greetings, Diplomates, and Happy New Year!

I would like to update you on current and upcoming Board activities, as well as encourage you to get out and vote!

### Nominations/Elections

As of July 1, 2011, the Board will have four vacancies, as two Directors' terms come to a close, and two Directors leave to focus on other professional pursuits. In order to maintain compliance with our bylaws, and therefore FSAB, no less than half the members at large on the Board shall be elected by the Diplomates whenever a vacancy exists. So we are again at the point where it is time for the Diplomates to vote in new Directors. Past president Dave Oleksow has compiled an impressive roster of Diplomates interested in becoming Directors. Please review their biographies, and vote for your top four. You may vote using the enclosed paper ballot or the ABFDE website at [www.abfde.org](http://www.abfde.org). Click on the Diplomates Only link to vote. If you need assistance, or the password, please contact me or the webmaster. The deadline for submission of your vote is March 1, 2011.

### ACT Panel

The ACT panel, consisting of ABFDE Diplomates, met in Atlanta November 4 through 7 with ACT representative Cindy Hill to discuss the results of the national survey completed by 74% of you. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, a 20-30% response rate is usually expected with such surveys, so our very high response rate is not only impressive, but contributes to the overall validity of the content for the written and practical tests. Consequently, many of the current written and practical tests will be updated during the next year to reflect current practice. ABFDE's goal is to introduce the updated tests by January 2012.

### FSAB Complaint

On October 29, 2010 I sent an email to all Diplomates regarding a complaint that was filed with FSAB by a testing candidate. In summary, the complaint involved the ABFDE

(continued on page 8)

## President's Message *Kirsten Singer*

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Board of Director Nominees .....        | 2  |
| Meet the Candidates .....               | 3  |
| Recent Changes to the RPG .....         | 5  |
| Continuing Education .....              | 6  |
| NIJ Grants .....                        | 7  |
| DOJ Seeks Application for Funding ..... | 11 |

# Board of Directors Nominees

**ABFDE Nominating Committee:**  
**Dave Oleksow, Chair and Sandra Ramsey Lines**

**Instructions:** Using the enclosed form or the ABFDE website, you may vote for up to four candidates or write in 1 to 4 Diplomates not listed. Any ballot with more than four names selected will not be counted.

**Paper Ballot:** Clearly mark your choices and include your certificate number. Inclusion of your certificate number is a control for the ballots submitted, and is mandatory for your vote to be counted. Mail the completed ballot to:

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners  
7887 San Felipe, Suite #122  
Houston, Texas 77063

**On-Line Voting:** Sign in to the ABFDE website using the Diplomates Only link from the home page (<http://www.abfde.org/>). From there, click on the link for the 2011 election ballot. Follow the instructions on the page, and click submit. Ballots submitted online are automatically directed to the Administrative Office.

**Please submit your ballot only once, either by mail or from the ABFDE website. Ballots must be completed by March 1, 2011. Online ballots must be submitted, or paper ballots must bear a postmark, no later than this date. Ballots not in compliance will not be counted.**

## Candidates

1. Daniel P. Anderson
2. Melvin Henry Cavanaugh
3. William M. Riordan
4. James A. Green
5. Rosalind Spencer
6. Bonnie Beal



**Editor Lisa M. Hanson**

## Contributors

- President Kirsten A. Singer**  
**Marie E. Durina**  
**A. Frank Hicks**  
**Richard A. Horton**  
**Jan M. Johnson**  
**Carl McClary**

## 2010-2011 Board Officers

- PRESIDENT** .....Kirsten A. Singer  
**VICE PRESIDENT**..... Lisa M. Hanson  
**SECRETARY** .....Carl McClary  
**TREASURER** ..... Jeffrey Taylor

## 2010-2011 Committee Chairs

- CONTINUING EDUCATION** .....A. Frank Hicks  
**CREDENTIALS** .....Carl McClary  
**FSAB (Advisory Position Only)** ..... Dennis Mooney  
**HISTORIAN** .....Carl McClary  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** ..... Lisa M. Hanson  
**NOMINATIONS**.....A. Frank Hicks  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS** ..... Kathleen Nicolaides  
**RECERTIFICATION** .....Jan Johnson  
**RULES & PROCEDURES**.....A. Frank Hicks  
**TEST PREPARATION & VALIDATION** .....Carl McClary  
**TESTING**..... Lisa M. Hanson  
**WEBMASTER**.....William Leaver  
**WORKSHOP COORDINATOR**.....L. Jim Josey

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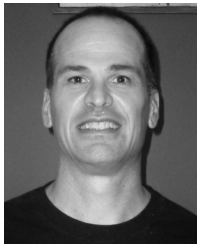
**[lisa.hanson@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.hanson@state.mn.us)**

**Deadline for the next issue is:**

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**[www.abfde.org](http://www.abfde.org)**

# Six Board Candidates



**Dan Anderson** is a forensic document examiner with the FBI laboratory. He completed his training program in October 1996 under the supervision of senior forensic document examiners in the Questioned Documents Unit. Dan received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kent State University in May 1987. After graduating from Kent State, Dan served in the U.S. Navy in San Diego,

where he was able to obtain his Master's degree in Forensic Sciences from National University in May 1990. Following an interest in questioned documents from a class in the Master's program, Dan served as a part-time apprentice with Manny Gonzales in San Diego from April 1993 to December 1994. After acceptance into the FBI training program in January 1995, Dan also joined the Virginia Army National Guard Infantry and served in that capacity for 3 years.



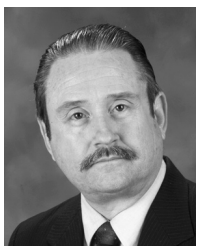
**Bonnie L. Beal** was a dental hygienist in Florida for a number of years before she embarked on her career as a forensic document examiner. She moved to Denver, where she attended Metropolitan State College, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in Criminalistics. After graduating in 1998, she trained under ABFDE Diplomates Frederick H. Panhorst and Diane K. Tolliver at the Indiana State Police.

In 2003, she moved to Memphis to work as a forensic document examiner with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. After the closing

of all satellite laboratories, she moved to the Washington, DC area to work in the last lab standing for the USPS.

Bonnie has been a Diplomate of the ABFDE since 2002. She is also an associate member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Questioned Document Section, and a regular member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, where she had the privilege to serve as a Director for two years.

On Bonnie's off hours, she loves to read, sing, and research her family genealogy. She has been singing with one or both the Praise Band or choir at her church in each State. Her cat, Evinrude, keeps her entertained at home.



**Melvin Cavanaugh** was assigned to the Scientific Services Bureau, Questioned Document Section, of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office in 1987, where he completed a full-time forensic document examiner apprenticeship training program with two senior questioned document examiners. He has attended numerous specialized training courses over the last 23 years. He is a past member the American Academy of Forensic Sciences-Questioned Document Section. He is an active member of the Southwestern Association of Forensic

Document Examiners, where he has served on the Board of Directors from the early 1990s to 2007 as regional representative, treasurer, and president. Mr. Cavanaugh has also worked within the forensic document examination community in many aspects such as participation in the Scientific Working Group for Questioned Documents (SWGDOC) committee from 1996 to March 2003, where he served as the chairperson from 1998 to 2001, and as a sub chair from 2001 to March 2003. He also participated in the American Society for Testing Materials subcommittee during the above time periods.

(Cavanaugh continued on page 8  
Candidates continued on page 4)

## Candidates

(continued from page 3)



**Jim Green** began his QD apprenticeship in 1988 while working at the Eugene Oregon Police Department. Upon his retirement from the department in 2000, he has maintained a full-time private practice. Jim enjoys serving on

the EC for the ASQDE and also has memberships with the AAFS and SWAFDE.

Jim became a Diplomate of the ABFDE in 2004. He values the support of his wife, Lori, and tolerates her five cats that rule the house. Jim looks forward to contributing to the work of the Board.



**William M. Riordan** has been in the QD field for 36 years. He trained under Maureen Casey Owens, completing the Chicago Police Department Crime Lab questioned document training program. He was a document

examiner with the Chicago Police Lab from 1974 through 1986 before joining the IRS National Forensic Laboratory as senior document analyst, where he is currently employed. Bill has been a Diplomate of the ABFDE since 1980 and assisted Maureen Casey Owens in developing the ABFDE's initial syllabus.

Bill is a Fellow of the AAFS QD Section and is currently the QD Director on the AAFS Board of Directors. Other positions held include Trustee,

Forensic Science Foundation Board of Trustees (2008-2009); QD Section Chair (2006-2007 and 2007-2008); and QD Section Secretary (2005-2006). He has participated as a member on various AAFS committees including the Nominating Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Membership Committee and the Ethics Committee (Section Advisor). Other memberships include MAFS and ASTM International Forensic Science Committee E30 and Questioned Document Subcommittee E30.02 for many years.

Bill has a Bachelor of Arts from Roosevelt University, Chicago and includes traveling and oil painting as primary interests along with accompanying numerous nieces and nephews to museums, plays, movies, and sports activities on a regular basis.



**Rosalind Spencer** received her education from the University of Stirling, Scotland, B.Sc Hons. Biological Sciences and is currently employed by the Canada Border Services Agency, Ottawa. She had three years' experience

at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory (Scotland Yard); two years at Strathclyde Police Forensic Science Laboratory, Glasgow; and 13 years at the Canada Border Services Agency.

She was certified by the ABFDE May 6, 2002. She is a member of the CSFS, provisional

member of the ASQDE, and associate member of the AAFS.

Her contact information is (613) 946-1711; [rosalind.spencer@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:rosalind.spencer@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)

"I believe in the integrity and commitment of the ABFDE and its fundamental role in providing FDE certification. It has been some time since we had a Canadian Director on the Board and I feel it is important for Canadian members to be represented. I would like to ensure that the ABFDE continues to stay abreast of global advances pertaining to our discipline. I also believe that the Board must maintain an emphasis on continuing education for recertification."



# Recent Changes to the Rules and Procedures Guide (RPG)

From the October 25, 2010 memo to all Diplomates from Secretary Carl McClary

Based on a request from FSAB to clarify the Board's appeal process and to update our Rules and Procedures, there will be posted on our website the newly approved version for you to copy and use as a reference. The substantive changes that were made and their rationale are summarized below:

## RPG, Tab 1, General Information (changes made 10/2010)

### 1. Recertification Requirements, Section III. D.

**Action:** Removal of subsections 1 and 2 regarding points earned for membership on committees.

**Justification:** This removal is based on the minutes from the Summer 2009 ABFDE newsletter that state, "Points will no longer be earned for being a committee member of any professional QD organization." Per FSAB, these points cannot be credited toward the required 40 points for continuing Professional Development.

Credits on a case by case basis may be reinstated at a later time pending discussion and approval by the Board.

### 2. Recertification Requirements, Section III. E.

**Action:** Removal of subsection 2 regarding LaTrobe proficiency testing.

**Justification:** LaTrobe testing has been discontinued for now.

### 3. Testing Guidelines, Section I Credentials Phase

**Action:** Reinsertion of the appeals process from the 2006 RPG

**Justification:** The appeals process was removed between 2009 and 2010 in violation of FSAB requirements, section 4.5.1.6.

**Action:** Addition of written instructions provided by Testing Committee Chairman (per Vice President's SOPs) to Credentials Committee members for evaluation of certification applicants, entitled ABFDE Credentials Committee Guidelines for Credentials Evaluators.

**Justification:** Per FSAB requirements, section 7.1.1, "Competency evaluation personnel should be responsible individuals who have received training appropriate for the tasks they perform."

### 4. Testing Guidelines, Sections I, II, III, and IV

**Action:** Relocation of and additions to the appeals process from Section I Credentials Phase as a separate section (Section V.). New appeals section is referenced in Section I.D Credentials Phase, Section II.E. Written Test Phase, Section III.I Practical Test Phase, and Section IV.R. Oral Boards Phase.

**Justification:** New FSAB requirements that allow appellant to come before the Board.

**Action:** Addition of written instructions provided by Testing Committee Chairman (per Vice President's SOPs) to written test proctor/evaluator for evaluation of certification candidates, entitled ABFDE Testing Committee Guidelines for Written Test Proctors /Evaluators.

**Justification:** Per FSAB requirements, section 7.1.1, "Competency evaluation personnel should be responsible individuals who have received training appropriate for the tasks they perform."

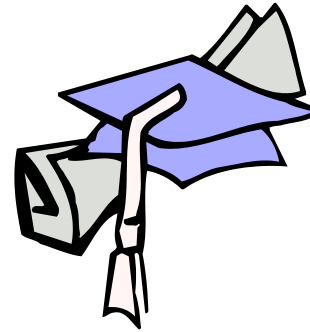
**Action:** Addition of written instructions provided by Testing Committee Chairman (per Vice President's SOPs) to Oral Boards members for evaluation of certification candidates, entitled ABFDE Testing Committee Guidelines for Oral Boards Evaluators.

**Justification:** Per FSAB requirements, section 7.1.1, "Competency evaluation personnel

(continued on page 8)

# Continuing Education

A. Frank Hicks  
Long Beach, CA



## February 2011

21-26 **American Academy of Forensic Scientists**  
**“Relevant, Reliable and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections–One Academy”**  
 Hyatt Regency Chicago  
 151 E. Wacker Drive  
 Chicago, IL 60662

## April 2011

14-16 **SAFDE Annual Meeting**  
**Workshops on Digital Photography and Adobe Photoshop**, taught by a photography instructor from the FBI Laboratory  
 Donald Moryan, Duluth Police Dept,  
 Duluth (Atlanta) GA  
 Donald.moryan@us.army.mil  
 (404) 469-7045, or safde.org

## May 2011

20-22 **Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners**  
**30th Anniversary Meeting**  
 Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas  
 6333 N. Scottsdale Road  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85250  
 Alan Kreitl  
 Arizona Department of Public Safety  
 (602) 223-2375  
 akreitl@azdps.gov

23-27 **MAAFS Annual Meeting**  
 Founders' Inn and Spa  
 Virginia Beach, VA  
 Scott Walters  
 scott.walters@usss.dhs.gov  
 (202) 406-5288

## August 2011

7-13 **IAI Annual International Educational Conference**  
 Frontier Airlines Center,  
 Downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Jim Gettemy, Education Coordinator  
 651-681-8566

20-25 **ASQDE 69th Annual General Meeting**  
**“Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Science”**  
 Hyatt Regency at Philadelphia Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA  
 Program Chair: Lisa Hanson  
 Lisa.Hanson@state.mn.us  
 Site Chair: Dennis Ryan dryan@appliedforensics.com

## November 2011

1-5 **NEAFS Annual Meeting**  
 Hyatt Regency Hotel and Spa  
 Newport, Rhode Island  
 Vinny Desiderio  
 Vfornsic@yahoo.com



# National Institute of Justice Granted Four R&D Awards in Questioned Documents

## A summary of the NIJ FY2010 QD Projects PowerPoint presentation

The year 2010 brought great fortune to the area of questioned document (QD) research and development through four different grants awarded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). These projects will help find answers to the questions brought forth by the NAS Report and also court challenges QD examiners face quite frequently.

Below are summaries of the grants that were awarded. Many of our colleagues are working with the award grantees (Principle Investigators) to help make these projects successful. I personally would like to thank all those involved for their hours of donated time, and especially NIJ for granting the monies that make each study possible.

### 1. Statistical Examination of Handwriting Characteristics using Automated Tools

- **Agency:** Research Foundation of SUNY
- **Principal Investigator:** Dr. Sargur Srihari
- **Award Number:** 2010-DN-BX-K037
- **Funding:** \$425,077 for 2 years
- **Project Description:** The project proposes to provide continuing research on the statistical basis of reporting results of handwriting examinations by questioned document (QD) examiners. As a facet of QD examination, the analysis and reporting of handwriting examination suffers from lack of statistical data concerning the frequency of occurrence of combinations of particular handwriting characteristics.

The research proposes to use previously created databases of handwriting samples that are representative of the U.S. population. Existing feature lists of characteristics for different letter combinations, as well as new ones to be provided by QD examiners, will be used as the basis to determine frequency of the characteristics. Existing and new algorithms will be used to automatically extract those characteristics

from the data base (e.g., a software tool for extracting most of the characteristics from the most common letter pair “th” is already available). For each letter combination, frequencies of their characteristics will be evaluated. Based on statistical dependencies of the characteristics a method of evaluating the probability of any given letter formation will be given. The resulting algorithms will be incorporated into an existing automatic system for writer verification/identification, CEDARFOX.

- **Outcome/Impact:** This research will provide a statistical basis for courtroom presentation of handwriting evidence by providing information on the frequency of certain handwritten character formations occurring in a database of handwriting samples representative of the national population.

### 2. Validity, Reliability, Accuracy, and Bias in Forensic Signature Identification

- **Agency:** Kentucky State University
- **Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mara Merlino
- **Award Number:** 2010-DN-BX-K271
- **Funding:** \$466,710 for 2 years
- **Project Description:** This research will address several of the most important areas of forensic document examination presently at issue in state and federal courts. The proposed research uses a multi-modal approach to investigate the existence and nature of expertise related to forensic document examination, the evaluation and interpretation of the salient features of signature specimens, and the relationship between social influences inherent in the context of forensic document examination (e.g., information about prior examination outcome) on the outcomes of document examination.

(continued on page 9)

## President

(continued from page 1)

appeals process and criteria used to validate and evaluate the practical tests. FSAB reviewed the ABFDE practical test in question, as well as the ABFDE Rules and Procedures Guide (RPG) and SOPs. On September 8, 2010, FSAB issued a Notice of Action Letter to the ABFDE detailing the changes that the ABFDE needed to make in order to comply with FSAB standards, such as reinstating the appeals processes, ensuring that the final certification decision is made by more than the original evaluators, and arranging an independent audit of practical tests that were deemed “fail” or “rework” from August 2007 through August 2010 to assure all that the ABFDE does not have a “systemic” problem (the audit revealed that there was not). On November 7, 2010 I received an email from the FSAB president confirming that the Board’s response was adequate and that ABFDE was in full compliance with FSAB standards. As a result of this challenge, I believe that the Board is in a stronger position and better prepared to apply for FSAB reaccreditation this year. ABFDE is preparing to submit an application for recertification in March 2011 for a final recertification decision by FSAB in 2012. An outline of the substantive changes made in recent years by the Board is included in this newsletter. ¶

## Cavanaugh

(continued from page 3)

As chairperson of the SWAFDE Standardized Training Subcommittee, he successfully implemented the SWAFDE Training Manual. This training program has recently been acknowledged by the Board of Directors of the ABFDE as a recognized fundamental training program. He participated in the preparation and production of the ABFDE Resource Kits I and II. He was also a laboratory inspector for the American Society of Crime Lab Directors from 1995 to 2007.

**Candidate’s Message:** “Do not vote for me if you want a “yes” person on the Board of Directors. I have a history of voting for what is best for an organization or group. I vote after receiving information from the membership and careful consideration of all the ramifications on both sides of an issue up for vote. If elected to the Board of Directors, all members can expect to be kept fully informed of the activities of the organization. I have an open door policy for communication and look forward to serving in this manner in these challenging forensic times. I can bring a combination of previous Board of Director experience and a fresh perspective to the ABFDE Board.” ¶

## RPGs

(continued from page 5)

should be responsible individuals who have received training appropriate for the tasks they perform.”

### 5. Testing Guidelines, Section III Practical Test Phase

**Action:** The addition of subsection E which provides for an ad hoc committee to review tests and evaluator forms when there is a discrepancy and unanimity is not found among the evaluators in their review of practical test results. The committee would be charged with providing a final solution to the test(s) in dispute.

**Justification:** Ensure consistency between test evaluators

**Action:** Addition of written instructions provided by Testing Committee Chairman (per Vice President’s SOPs) to Testing Committee members for evaluation of certification candidates, entitled ABFDE Testing Committee Training Guidelines for Test Evaluators.

**Justification:** Per FSAB requirements, section 7.1.1, “Competency evaluation personnel should be responsible individuals who have received training appropriate for the tasks they perform.” ¶



## NIJ

(continued from page 7)

A sample of 120 forensic document examiners will be asked to participate in a preliminary survey assessing the nature and extent of their education, training, and experience, and other credentials in the field. They will also be asked to share their views about the present methods of FDE education and training. Using the eye-tracking methodology, the researchers will explore how FDEs and lay people extract information from handwritten signatures. They will also verbally elicit, via semi-structured interviews, information about examiners' and lay people's opinions concerning the evidential value of the features within the signatures they evaluate. This combination of quantitative and qualitative information will allow them to quantitatively analyze the visual and cognitive steps that FDEs and lay people employ to render decisions and to obtain an understanding of the relationship between the kind and extent of evidential information contained in signature specimens and the accuracy of examiner and layperson decision making about the source of the questioned signatures.

- **Outcome/Impact:** This research will address several critical issues that are currently facing forensic document examiners, such as expectancy and biasing effects, development of standardized training and proficiency testing, measures of reliability in signature identification, and method transparency.

### 3. Development of Individual Handwriting Characteristics in ~1800 Students: Statistical Analysis and Likelihood Ratios that Emerge over an Extended Period of Time

- **Agency:** Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- **Principal Investigator:** Ms. Lisa Hanson
- **Award Number:** 2010-DN-BX-K212
- **Funding:** \$399,172 for 3 years
- **Project Description:** The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

(MNBCA) is proposing a study that would begin to answer requests from recent reports, including the NAS report published in February 2009, for scientific research and studies in the pattern recognition sciences; in this case specifically, forensic handwriting examination.

The MNBCA will gather large amounts of handwriting and hand-printing samples in order to measure individual handwriting characteristics (departures from the instructed copybook style), using CEDAR-FOX software. After collecting the measurement data, it will be statistically analyzed for subsequent likelihood ratios of various individual handwriting characteristics in bodies of writing. It is believed that information developed from these likelihood ratios will begin to answer critical questions about the accuracy and reliability of forensic handwriting examinations.

The first part of this study has been developed to cover a three-year span. However, permission has been requested and granted by all the agencies and people involved to work together for an 11-year study, providing the information retrieved from this study is as valuable as expected. By collecting handwriting samples over this extended period of time (up to 11 years in three-year increments) this study will develop an extended database that will allow for time model analysis of the data collected that can be quantifiably measured and would lead to further understandings of the many complexities involved during the act of writing.

- **Outcome/Impact:** This research intends to provide a scientific basis of what needs to be involved during a forensic handwriting examination and will also provide statistical data that supports the conclusions reached from such examinations.

### 4. Frequency Occurrence of Handwriting and Hand-Printing Characteristics

- **Agency:** University of Central Florida
- **Principal Investigators:** Ms. Carrie Whitcomb and Mr. Tom Vastrick
- **Award Number:** 2010-DN-BX-K273

(continued on page 10)

## NIJ

(continued from page 9)

- **Funding:** \$498,659 for 2 years
- **Project Description:** Forensic document examination has long held, as a basis for the discipline, that no two people share the exact same set of handwriting characteristics. There have been numerous studies involving small groups of the general population and small sub-groupings of populations as to the uniqueness of handwriting and of frequency occurrence of characteristics. However, to date, there have been no large-scale studies involving a statistically appropriate sampling of the overall U.S. population or sub-grouping. It is the purpose of this research project to develop statistically valid frequency ratios of characteristics of handwriting and hand printing based on specimen samples throughout the US, to provide practitioners of forensic document examination with statistical basis for reliability and measurement validity to accurately state their conclusions, and to provide courts with the reliable data needed to understand the underlying scientific basis for the examinations and the conclusions.

Specifically, the project will 1) identify what constitutes a statistically valid sampling of the U.S. population and appropriate (and measurable) sub-groupings of the population; 2) design and utilize a handwriting/hand printing form for the collection of specimens that minimizes the limitations of variation while being sufficiently concise as to be of a workable size; 3) identify key handwriting/hand printing characteristics for each letter; upper and lower case, handwritten and hand printed that minimize subjective analysis; 4) design a database/spreadsheet for the input and analyses of the specimens; 5) design a data input system; 6) using standard methodologies of statistics to develop frequency ratios for the selected handwriting/hand printing characteristics of the general U.S. population; 7) inter-compare the frequency occurrences of each selected characteristic for interdependency with other characteristics; and 8) establish a statistically valid confidence level for the frequency ratios.

- **Outcome/Impact:** This research will develop frequency estimates for handwriting characteristics of the general U.S. population to establish valid confidence levels for inferring uniqueness. 9

**Don't forget to  
VOTE!**

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**OMB No. 1121-0329**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
*National Institute of Justice*

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding to support applied research and development projects to:

- (1) increase knowledge or understanding necessary to guide forensic science policy and practice
- (2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application

This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and criminal justice, particularly at the State and local levels. The availability of funding for FY 2011 has not yet been determined. In FY 2010, NIJ provided over \$30 million in grants to fund research and development projects related to forensic science and the criminal justice system.

### **Solicitation**

#### **Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes**

### **Eligibility**

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), units of local government (including federally-recognized Indian tribal governments as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee. NIJ may also enter into interagency agreements with Federal entities in appropriate cases. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

### **Deadline:**

Registration with [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) is required prior to application submission.  
(See "How to Apply," page 11)

**Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 5, 2011.**

(See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 3)

### **Contact Information**

For technical assistance with submitting the application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or via e-mail to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

**Note:** The [Grants.gov](http://grants.gov) Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact NIJ by email to [forensic.research@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:forensic.research@ojp.usdoj.gov). Grants.gov number assigned to announcement: NIJ-2011-2805 SL# 000944

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