



SPOTLIGHT

August Meyer QDE

In this feature, *The Examiner* spotlights a member, giving us the opportunity to learn more about our fellow examiners.



My path to forensic document examination has been a winding one, but my interest in the field began in childhood.

Hello SAFE.

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as Mormons, my father introduced me to books and documentaries about Mark Hoffman and the Salamander Letter. Hoffman's attempts to undermine the Church's history through forged documents left a lasting impression. His forgeries and subsequent murders to cover up his crimes influenced me to pursue a career in document examination when the opportunity arose.

For most of my adult life, I have been involved in law enforcement, security, surveillance or the military. At age 18, I was hired as a Reserve Police Officer for a small town in Iowa, where I worked for three years (2003–2006). I studied Criminal Justice in college where I met Dr. Thomas McAninch, the department head, and we remained close friends until his passing a couple of months ago.

Dr. McAninch, or "Dr. Mack", was a gang expert. In his classes, we studied gang history and identification. He was also the Director of Security for the National Gang Crime Research Center (NGCRC), which held an annual conference in Chicago for law enforcement professionals. As one of Dr. Mack's select students, I had the privilege of attending the conference and was invited to be part of his security staff for seven consecutive conferences from 2004 to 2010.

At the conference, I took a class on Statement Analysis, taught by Joelle Sweeney of the National Drug Intelligence Center. The course focused on detecting deception through speech, body language, and handwriting, which piqued my interest. Sweeney mentored me in graphology, which I pursued as a hobby for several years.

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In 2013, I joined the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation (AHAF) and met Reed Hayes, CFDE, which led me to enroll in his forensic document examination course and completed in 2014. Since then, I have worked in the document examination field, though I have not yet reached the point where I can do the work full-time.

In addition to document examination, one of my interests is magic, particularly sleight of hand. In 2005, I worked as a security officer for a riverboat casino in Iowa, where word spread about my skills as a magician. After a demonstration, I was offered a position as Surveillance Supervisor for a newly constructed casino. Over the next couple of years, I trained surveillance agents to identify sleight-of-hand techniques used to cheat casinos.

I left the casino to join the Iowa National Guard in 2007, followed by ROTC at the University of Iowa. I graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Russian, receiving my commission as an officer in the Army Reserves. After graduation, I returned to casino surveillance, working in St. Louis, then Las Vegas at the Flamingo Hotel from 2016 to 2018, where I again trained surveillance agents.

In 2018, following the tragic Mandalay Bay shooting, Caesars Entertainment formed a Special Response Team (SRT), which was essentially the casino SWAT team. I transitioned from surveillance to the SRT and became the team's first supervisor, responsible for guest safety across all nine Caesars-owned properties in Las Vegas. I led the teams until 2022 when I volunteered for an active-duty military tour, which brought me back to St. Louis.

In 2019, I rekindled my interest in document examination and have been working toward gaining more cases to eventually pursue it full-time.

It has been a privilege to be a member of such a great organization, and I look forward to continuing to learn from each of you.

