

Dan C. Purdy: The 2012 Albert S. Osborn Award Recipient

Linton Mohammed and Tobin Tanaka

At the 2012 AGM in Charleston, SC, Dan C. Purdy became the 10th recipient of the Albert S. Osborn Award for Excellence. This award is the highest honor given by the Society and is only bestowed on persons who have attained exceptional distinction in terms of:

- o cumulative activities, such as professional research or literary accomplishments which advance the field of questioned document examination, and
- o outstanding service to the ASQDE over a long period of time, such service resulting in generally recognized and beneficial improvements in the Society.

Dan Purdy started his career in forensic document examination in 1969 at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Crime Detection Laboratory in Vancouver, British Columbia (BC). Upon completion of his training in 1971 he examined document cases submitted by police agencies located throughout BC and the Yukon Territories. During that period, he attended various forensic science meetings including his first ASQDE conference in 1971 at Seattle, WA.

In 1979, Dan accepted a transfer to the RCMP's Central Forensic Laboratory in Ottawa where he occupied various positions including a member of Special Services Unit (1980-1981), the Ottawa Document Section (1981-1984), head of the Document Operational Support Unit (1985), head of the Ottawa Laboratory Document Section (1986) and Chief Scientist – Forensic Document Examination (1999), a role he continued until he retired from the RCMP

in 1999. After leaving the public sector, he examined private document cases for Forensic Document Examination Services Inc., a company he founded a few years earlier. During 2009, he moved his practice to the Vancouver area in the city of Mission, BC.

Dan is certified by the ABFDE and holds a Diploma in Document Examination from the Forensic Science Society. He authored more than 30 papers that deal with various topics related to his profession. Many of these have been either presented at meetings of the ASQDE, the AAFS, the Canadian Society of Forensic Science (CSFS), the International Association of Forensic Science (IAFS) and the Forensic Science Society (FSSoc) or published in their respective journals. Some of his most notable contributions to the QD literature include chapters in the Encyclopaedia of Forensic Science and the second edition of Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents.

Dan served as a member of the ASQDE executive committee for 10 years including a two-year term as its President from 2004 to 2006. He also served as president of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE) from 1993-1995 and was an active member of editorial boards of the ASQDE, the AAFS, the CSFS as well as the Journal of Forensic Science.

In recent years, Dan established and contributed to an endowment fund that provides financial backing for trainees and junior document examiners to attend the ASQDE meetings. Additionally, he regularly organized ASQDE trainee breakout sessions since their inauguration in 2008.

Congratulations to Dan on a well-deserved award.

