

# ASQDE/SWAFDE 2025 Joint Conference



Harrah's Resort, Las Vegas, NV  
Aug. 18-20

# 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual ASQDE and SWAFDE Joint Conference



## “Sharing Solutions”



### Executive Board Members

ASQDE President Thomas Vastrick  
SWAFDE President Joe Merydith

ASQDE Vice President Jason Miller  
ASQDE Secretary Khody Detwiler  
ASQDE Treasurer Laura Mancebo  
ASQDE Director Brenda Lanners  
ASQDE Director Jeff Luber

### Conference Committee

Program Co-Chairs:  
Brett Bishop and Andy Szymanski  
Exhibitor Coordinator Kelsey Osborn  
A/V Coordinator Andy Szymanski

### Administration & Site

Executive Assistant Nanette Davis  
Administrative Assistant Quinn Davis

Thank  
you

to our  
sponsors

Visit the  
Exhibitor Show  
Aug. 18-20

Gold sponsor

**foster+freeman**<sup>®</sup>  
FORENSIC SCIENCE INNOVATION

Silver sponsors

**Image  
Access**

**Regula**

**ZARBECO**  
Portable Digital Microscopes

# Las Vegas 2025

## Conference Schedule

— •• —  
General Session held in Tahoe Room

### Sunday, Aug. 17

Early Conference Registration (*Foyer*)..... 3:30—5:30 p.m.

### Monday, Aug. 18

Registration, Coffee and Pastries (*Foyer*)..... 7—8 a.m.  
Welcome / Exhibitor Introductions / Poster Teasers ..... 8—9:05 am  
Workshop: Practical Application of Evaluative Reporting in QDE .... 9:05 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Morning Break — Opening of Exhibitor Show (*Goldfield/Tonopah*). 10—10:30 a.m.  
LUNCH BREAK ..... 12:30—1:45 p.m.  
Workshop: Be Wrong! Be Strong! A Workshop on Error ..... 1:45—5:15 p.m.  
Afternoon Break (*Exhibitor Room*)..... 3—3:30 p.m.  
President's Reception (*Reno Room*) ..... 5:30—7 p.m.

### Tuesday, Aug. 19

Exhibitor Show and Posters All Day ..... 8 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Technical Sessions..... 8 a.m.—12:45 p.m.  
Group Photo..... 10—10:15 a.m.  
Morning Break (*Exhibitor Room*)..... 10:15—10:45 a.m.  
GUESTS EXCUSED FOR DAY (*refreshments in Exhibitor Room*).... 12:45 p.m.  
ASQDE Members Business Meeting & Lunch (*Tahoe Room*)..... 1—5 p.m.  
SWAFDE Members Business Meeting (*Copper Room*)..... 1—2 p.m.  
Trainee/Jr Examiner Workshop (*Silver Room*)..... 1:30—5 p.m.  
Cocktail Reception **sponsored by Foster + Freeman** ..... 6—7 p.m.  
Banquet / Awards / Live Auction (*Reno Room*)..... 7—10 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 20

Exhibitor Show..... 8 a.m.—3:15 p.m.  
Workshop: Indentation/Visible Writing Sequencing ..... 8 a.m.—12 p.m.  
Morning Break (*Exhibitor Room*) ..... 10—10:30 a.m.  
LUNCH BREAK ..... 12—1:15 p.m.  
Workshop: Challenging Signatures ..... 1:15 —4:15 p.m.  
Afternoon Break (*Exhibitor Room*)..... 3—3:30 p.m.  
2026 AGM Meeting overview and closing remarks ..... 4:15—5 p.m.

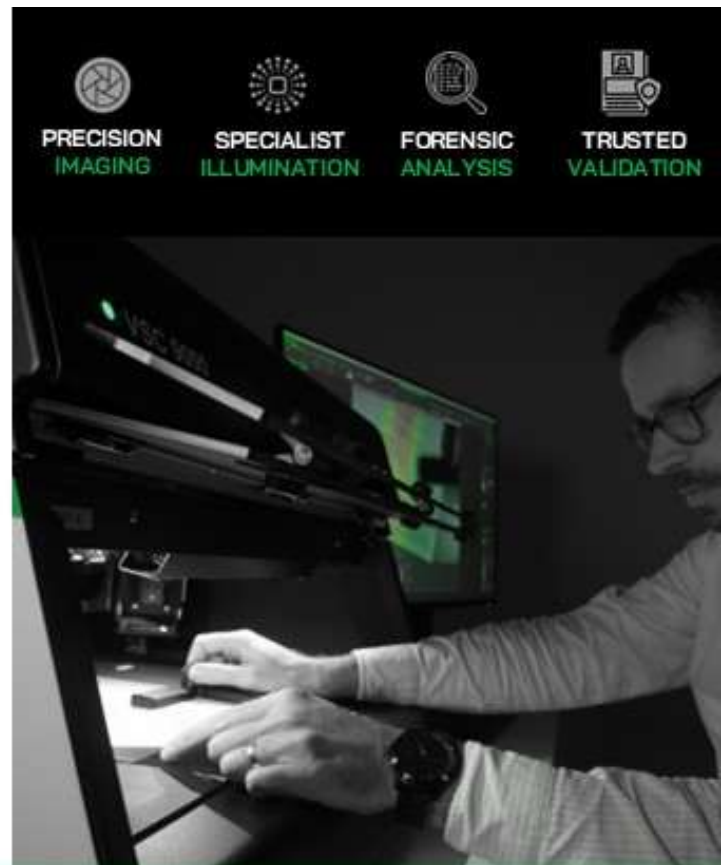
Please respect our dress code of business casual for general sessions and  
cocktail attire for the ASQDE/SWAFDE Banquet.

# VSC<sup>®</sup> 9000

Video Spectral Comparators

## The Final Word in Document Examination

The foster+freeman VSC9000 provides QDE experts with a complete forensic toolset to 'dissect' questioned documents, from the inspection of fine detail, paper, and ink composition to the detection of embedded security features.



usoffice@fosterfreeman.com

**foster+freeman**

www.fosterfreeman.com

### Wireless Internet Access Instructions (for use inside meeting rooms)

1. Connect to the wireless network named **Caesars\_Resorts**.
2. Open your web browser. The Caesars splash page will appear.
3. Select free wi-fi.
4. Check the box and accept the terms.

(When logging in from your hotel room, enter your name and room number.)

### See your email for the link to the 2025 ASQDE Conference folder.

The folder contains conference presentations,  
digital program, attendee list, attendance  
certificates and individual registration receipts.

**Download items before the link expires 9/30/25.**  
Questions? Email [asqdeoffice@asqde.org](mailto:asqdeoffice@asqde.org)

# MONDAY, AUGUST 18

## General Session in Tahoe Room

**Moderator: Kevin Kulbacki**

7 - 8:30 a.m.	Conference Registration & Coffee/Pastries in Foyer	
8 - 8:10 a.m.	<b>Welcome to the 2025 ASQDE/SWAFDE Joint Conference!</b>	
	Exhibitor Introductions:	
	◇ Foster + Freeman (Gold Sponsor)	
8:10 - 8:35 a.m.	◇ Image Access (Silver Sponsor)	
	◇ Zarbeco (Silver Sponsor)	
	◇ Regula Forensics (Silver Sponsor)	
8:35 - 8:40 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> Back To The Future: Corvette Style	<b>Charlotte Keesling</b>
8:40 - 8:45 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> Electrostatic Detection Device vs. Electrostatic Dust Lifter	<b>George Lehman</b>
8:45 - 8:50 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> Laser Etching - Methods, Characteristics, and Applications	<b>Jennifer Naso</b>
8:50 - 8:55 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> Paper as Bibliographic Evidence	<b>Doug Ridolfi</b>
8:55 - 9 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> Proceed with Caution: The Dangers of Relying Solely on I.D. Guides in the Age of High-Tech Fakes	<b>Jim Ross and Darlene L. Morin</b>
9 - 9:05 a.m.	<b>POSTER:</b> A Practical Approach to the Analysis and Comparison of Signature Data Captured from Various Digital Capturing Solutions	<b>Jonathan Jackson-Morris</b>
9:05 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> The Practical Application of Evaluative Reporting in Questioned Document Examination focusing on Handwriting Examination	<b>Jonathan Jackson-Morris and Carolyne Bird</b>
10 - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Morning Break: EXHIBITOR SHOW OPEN and POSTER DISPLAYS</b>	
12:30 - 1:45 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
1:45 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Be Wrong, Be Strong! A Workshop on Error	<b>Carolyne Bird</b> (co-authors: Nicole Crown, Raymond Marquis, Erich Kupferschmid, Jana Aumeistere and Tomasz Dzedzic)
3 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon Break</b> (Exhibitor Room)	
5:30 - 7 p.m.	<b>President's Reception (Reno Room)</b> <i>(Be sure to wear your nametag and have your green drink ticket)</i>	

## Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners

The JASQDE is now an indexed, open access journal.

By publishing with the JASQDE, your contributions to the science and profession of document examination will now reach a larger audience than ever before.

You can see it and learn how to submit your paper at <https://journal.asqde.org>.

**New for 2025**

**Live Color Space**



Video ToolBox Ultra with Live Color Space

PORTABLE DIGITAL MICROSCOPES FOR DOCUMENT EXAMINATION



UP TO 360X MAGNIFICATION  
LIGHTING OPTIONS: WHITE, VIS, UV, NEAR IR  
FILTER WHEEL FOR IR LUMINESCENCE  
LIVE COLOR SPACE TRANSFORMS W/SOFTWARE  
HIGH QUALITY CALIBRATION & MEASUREMENT  
TRANSPARENT OVERLAYS WITH PRECISE SCALE

**ZARBECO**  
Portable digital microscopes

[www.zarbeco.com](http://www.zarbeco.com)  
[sales@zarbeco.com](mailto:sales@zarbeco.com)  
phone: 973-933-2043

**Image Access**

**WideTEK<sup>12</sup>**  
SPECTRUM

- Scanner Optics CCD Camera, scans in color, grayscale, B&W
- Resolution 1200 x 1200 dpi scanner resolution
- Full Scan VIS & IR @ 300 dpi < 3 s
- 3D Visible Surface Texture
- UV and IR Light
- Backlight
- Auto Crop and Deskew
- 1 GBit Fast Ethernet with TCP/IP based Scan2Net<sup>®</sup> Interface



Backlight shows watermarks

UV light excites fluorescent ink and fiber

IR light proves banknote's IR response

3D scans create embossments

[www.imageaccess.us](http://www.imageaccess.us)

**Regula**

## Master Every Forensic Challenge

with Regula's Precision and Innovation

Regula empowers forensic professionals with cutting-edge tools for reliable document examination. Trusted in over 170 countries, our video spectral comparators and other forensic tools deliver the precision, clarity, and control essential for analyzing passports, ID cards, banknotes, handwriting, and more — ensuring confidence in every forensic challenge.

100% in-house development

Driven by forensic experts

Integrated Information Reference System

Zero-maintenance design

Powerful operating software



[regulaforensics.com](http://regulaforensics.com)

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

## General Session in Tahoe Room

**Moderator: Jim Tarver**

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Coffee in Exhibitor Room	
8 - 8:20 a.m.	The Need for a Signature Standard	<b>Linton Mohammed</b>
8:20 - 8:50 a.m.	Validation of FDE skill - Examination for alterations	<b>Carolyn Bird</b>
8:50 - 9:10 a.m.	Revisiting Almeciga v. Center for Investigative Reporting: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges	<b>Kevin Kulbacki</b>
9:10 - 9:30 a.m.	Handwriting Hurdles: Navigating the Risks of Examining and Comparing Foreign Scripts	<b>Grant Sperry and Kiki Wong</b>
9:30 - 10 a.m.	The Shape of Authenticity: Evaluating Chinese Signatures Through Form, Not Language	<b>Linda Mitchell and Khody Detwiler</b>
10 - 10:15 a.m.	<b>Group Photo</b>	
10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Break</b> (Exhibitor Room)	
10:45 - 11:05 a.m.	Literature Review of Electronic Handwritten Signature in China	<b>Shun Tu</b> (co-author Dian Zhang)
11:05 - 11:35 a.m.	Beyond the Accomplishments: A Digital Preservation of the Crown Collection at the ASQDE Resource Center	<b>Taylor Loudermilk</b>
11:35 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.	Depositions - What You Can Expect	<b>Sandra Raudabaugh and Thomas W. Vastrick</b>
12:05 - 12:25 p.m.	How to Determine Authenticity of Questioned Treasury Checks via Instrumental and Physico-chemical Analysis	<b>Rafal Turek</b>
12:25 - 12:45 p.m.	Alcohol Influence: Effect on Handwriting Habit, United States of America and People of Puerto Rico vs Mayra Nevarez-Torres	<b>Hector Figueroa</b>
<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Guests excused for the afternoon</b> <i>Please stop by the Exhibitor Room for cool refreshments before heading out.</i>	
1 - 2 p.m.	<b>SWAFDE Member Business Meeting</b> (Copper Room)	
1 - 5 p.m.	<b>ASQDE Member Lunch (with Trainees) &amp; Business Meeting</b> (Tahoe Room)	
1:30 - 5 p.m.	Trainee / Junior Examiner Workshop (Silver Room)	<b>Tobin Tanaka</b>
3 - 3:20 p.m.	Afternoon Break for ASQDE members and trainees (Exhibitor Room)	
6 - 7 p.m.	Cocktail Reception <i>sponsored by Foster + Freeman</i> (Reno Room) <i>Be sure to wear your nametag (with your banquet ticket and white drink ticket)</i>	
7 - 10 p.m.	Banquet / Presentations / Live Auction (Reno Room)	

# 2025 ASQDE Live Auction

Following the banquet Tuesday evening will be a lively auction of vintage books and new T-shirts with proceeds to support the ASQDE Resource Center and the Dan Purdy Training Fund. Here are a few of the items to be auctioned:

**Item #1: Making Imperial Typewriters.** Hard cover book, unnumbered pages, published by The Imperial Typewriter Company Ltd., Leicester, England. Great images. Includes detached unusual size paper with 4 typewriters pictured.

**Item #2: Suspect Documents (Second Edition).** Hard back cover with paper dust cover, includes supplement, tabs to some pages, good condition. Inscribed D. C. Purdy 17-11-71 on inside front cover.

**Item #6: Famous and Infamous Cases.** Hardback book published 1950, fair condition. From Howard C. Rile, Jr.'s collection.

**Item #15: Detecting and Deciphering Erased Pencil Writing.** Includes inscription from Ordway Hilton to the ASQDE. Published 1991, very good condition.

**Item #17: Scientific Examination of Documents, methods and Techniques.** "Office Copy Ordway Hilton 15 October 1956" inscription. Includes envelope with Hilton's New York address with pre-press photos of Chapter 3 images inside.

**Item #28: Questioned Documents (2nd ed., 2nd printing, Dec. 1929).** Includes supplementary materials. Signature of Ben Garcia. From Howard C. Rile' Jr.'s collection.

**Item #31: Collected Legal Papers** by Oliver Wendell Holmes. Inscribed "E.W. Stein 7/26/21."

**Items #32-37:** A selection of new fun T-shirts in various sizes and colors.

[View the full list of auction items.](#)

Payment by cash or card (via online Paypal invoice) welcome!

See the detailed list of items  
to be auctioned



# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

## General Session in Tahoe Room

### Moderator: Randy Carodine

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Coffee in Exhibitor Room	
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Indentation / Visible Writing Sequencing Workshop	<b>Tobin Tanaka and Melanie Holt</b>
10 - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Morning Break</b> (Exhibitor Room)	
12 - 1:15 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	

### Moderator: Joe Merydith

1:15 - 4:15 p.m.	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Challenging Signatures	<b>Thomas W. Vastrick</b>
3 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon Break</b> (Exhibitor Show closes at end of break)	
4:15 - 4:45 p.m.	2026 ASQDE Meeting Overview	
4:45 - 5 p.m.	Closing remarks – safe travels!	

## NOTES



# Join the ASQDE!

The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners was formally established on Sept. 2, 1942, by Albert S. Osborn and other pioneers in the field, and incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on Nov. 16, 1970.

The purpose of the Society is to:

- Foster education.
- Promote justice in matters that involve disputed documents.
- Sponsor scientific research.
- Exchange experiences.
- Provide instruction in the field of document examination.

To accomplish these objectives, the ASQDE encourages members to conduct scientific research and present the results at the annual conference of members and invited guests from all over the world.

The Society also promotes continuing education in our field by providing quality workshops for document examiners and trainees.

The ASQDE has added a new membership level for full-time University Students interested in the forensic field. Also, current ABFDE diplomates may join as Provisional Members and after one year apply for promotion to Regular Member without additional testing or research required.

To learn more about these new categories and the benefits of membership in the ASQDE, and to apply, please visit the **Join ASQDE** page at [www.asqde.org](http://www.asqde.org).

If you have questions, email [membership@asqde.org](mailto:membership@asqde.org) or see Membership & Credentials Chair Brenda Lanners at this meeting.

# SWAFDE



## Welcome to the 2025 ASQDE/SWAFDE Joint Meeting held in fabulous Las Vegas!

In the coming days, I hope you will find this meeting refreshing and informative, as we continue to develop our skills as Forensic Document Examiners and have a chance to fellowship with peers.

Thank you for your attendance and support of these two fine organizations. I invite you to become a member of SWAFDE.

Enjoy the meeting!

***Joseph Merydith - President***

**Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE)**

**SWAFDE** is a regional organization of Forensic Document Examiners with membership throughout the United States. Membership is open to any person who:

- ◆ Is a United States citizen whose primary profession is that of a Forensic Document Examiner and whose primary place of employment is within the United States.
- ◆ Otherwise meets all the requirements in SWAFDE's Bylaws and Directives.

If you are interested in membership, please reach out to a board member here at this meeting, or visit our website at [www.swafde.org](http://www.swafde.org) and contact our membership chairperson.



84th Annual  
ASQDE Conference  
Aug. 17-19, 2026

*Embassy Suites*  
*Minneapolis, MN*

[asqde.org](http://asqde.org)

*See you in 2026!*



@asqde42

ASQDE  
.org



@ASQDE1942