

Howard C. Rile, Jr.:

The 2014 Albert S. Osborn Award Recipient

Jim Green and Linton Mohammed

During the recent annual conference in Honolulu, the prestigious Albert S. Osborn Award for Excellence was presented to Howard C. Rile, Jr. Howard is the 12th recipient to receive the award. The award is bestowed by the Society to those "...who have attained exceptional distinction for their cumulative activities, such as professional research or literary accomplishments which advance the field of questioned document examination, and outstanding service to the ASQDE over a long period of time, such service resulting in generally recognized and beneficial improvements in the Society."

Howard graduated from California State University at Los Angeles in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. From 1968 to 1972, he worked as a chemist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

From 1972 to 1974, he trained as a Forensic Document Examiner with John J. Harris at the firm of Harris and Harris, Los Angeles, California. Between 1974 and 1979, Howard was a document examiner with the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller. From 1979 to 1983, he was the Questioned Document Examiner for the State of Colorado at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in Denver.

Since 1983, Howard has been in private practice. After leaving Colorado, he was again affiliated with Harris and Harris until 1996, when upon Jack Harris' retirement, he opened his own practice in Long Beach. In 2002, he invited Frank Hicks to join him, establishing the firm of Rile & Hicks, and they worked together until Howard's retirement earlier this year.

Howard was the 29th President of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. Prior to his election as President of the ASQDE, Howard served the Society as a Director, Secretary and Vice President.

Howard is also a Diplomat and Past President of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and served on the Board for many years. Other professional memberships include Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners

(SWAFDE), the Questioned Document Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Canadian Society of Forensic Science, and ASTM International.

Howard is a regular attendee at ASQDE meetings and is well known for his signature workshops. He is the author of a number of professional presentations and papers. He was one of a group of authors who revised *Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents, 2nd Edition*. He wrote the chapter on "The Identification of Signatures."

Additionally, Howard's expertise has enhanced the reputation of the profession among the legal and judicial community. He has also given many presentations to attorneys through the California State Bar on document examination. He is well known in particular for his expertise with medical records and questioned wills and trusts.

Although Howard is effectively in retirement status, we hope he continues to attend our conferences and share his knowledge and experience with us. We congratulate Howard C. Rile, Jr. on his many valued contributions to the ASQDE and to the field.

