

QUALIFICATIONS

GERHARDUS M CLOETE (Nat. Dipl. Police Admin)

Questioned Document, Handwriting and Fingerprint Expert

***Member of the SASFDE - South African Society of Forensic Document Experts
(established on 25 November 2015)***

I am a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the former South African Police where I was employed, amongst others, for approximately 18 years as a full-time expert examiner of Questioned Documents, which includes the identification of a person through his/her handwriting, the individualisation of signatures, typewriting, printed matter and stamp imprints; the identifying of forgeries, erasures, alterations and additions; the deciphering of writing which has been overwritten and/or concealed writings and indentations, as well as any other examination concerning disputed documents. During my period of training in 1966 and 1967 I have studied the works of acknowledged authorities in this field (See the attached Annexure).

Since retiring from the South African Police on 28 February 1993 I practice the examination of questioned documents in a private capacity and thus I now have about 42 years' experience in this field.

During my career as an expert examiner of questioned documents I have examined more than 6000 cases in which I issued affidavits or reports and have also conducted thousands more co-examinations for colleagues or control examinations for trainees. I have attended the courts of the Republic of South Africa and the adjacent neighbouring states and/or the previous homelands more than 800 times in order to give evidence under oath with regard to my findings of such examinations.

My services are required by Advocates, Attorneys and other members in the legal profession, Insurance Companies, Commercial Banks and other Financial Institutions, Auditors and Accountants, Business firms, private persons, etc. During such examinations I make or made use of all the conventional and sophisticated methods of examination of questioned documents, including examination by means of a stereo microscope, Video Spectral Comparator, ESDA Apparatus, Infra-red and Ultra-violet illumination. I am completely objective and unbiased in such examinations and I am not being influenced by anybody or anything with regard to my findings and conclusions. In various cases my findings and/or evidence were decisive for the parties concerned to compromise or to take further action. At the least I consider myself as one of the top experts in my field in this country.

An exceptional case in this regard was the State versus Petro de Pontes, former attorney and National Party Member of Parliament, who in partnership with the exiled (from Switzerland) Vito Roberto Palazollo (Von Palace-Kolbatshenko), owned businesses and who had through fraud transferred properties and vehicles/possessions on his own name.

Primarily on grounds of my evidence De Pontes was found guilty and was sentenced/fined; copies of a letter from the Senior Prosecutor, Port Elizabeth (at that stage) as well as an extract from the court records of the case in which I received a recommendation from the prosecutor and the judge can be made available if required. I have also received other recommendations from Regional Court and Magistrates Court magistrates as well as from other senior law officials of which I can unfortunately not produce any proof.

In addition to the former I also have eight years' experience in the comparison of and identification of a person by means of fingerprints and the past 19 years I have periodically received cases in which I had to identify fingerprints. During this time I have examined thousands of fingerprints in this regard.

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AUTHORITIES STUDIED

TITEL TITLE	SKRYWER AUTHOR	OPLAAG/ DRUK EDITION/ PRINTING	JAAR YEAR
1. Questioned Documents	Albert S Osborn	2nd Edition	1940
2. Questioned Document Problems	Albert S Osborn	2nd Edition	1946
3. The Problem of Proof	Albert S Osborn	7th Printing	1950
4. Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents	Ordway Hilton	Revised Edition	1956 1982
5. Suspect Documents	WR Harrison	1st Edition 2nd Impression with Supplement	1958 1966
6. Evidential Documents	James VP Conway		1959
7. Scientific Evidence in Criminal Cases	Andre A Moenssens, Ray Edward Moses, Fred E Inbau		1973
8. Forged, Anonymous & Suspect Documents	Capt. Arthur J Quirke		1930
Since practicing as a Private Consultant in this regard, I have acquired the books mentioned in 1 and 4 supra as well as the following authority:			
9. Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals	Roy A Huber AM Headrick		1999

_____ Lt. Colonel
G M CLOETE