



## Questioned Documents Section – 2004

---

### **J12 Some Observations Regarding Usage of the Bayesian Method for the Assessment and Reporting of Questioned Document Examinations**

*William J. Bodziak, MSFS\*, Bodziak Forensics, 1281 Cunningham Creek Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32259*

After attending this presentation, attendees will acquire some basic knowledge of the Bayesian method of analysis and reporting.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by describing some basic knowledge of the Bayesian method of analysis and reporting.

Over the past years, a number of articles have been written advocating the usage of the strict Bayesian Method of both analysis and reporting in many areas of forensic science, including the field of document examination. The complexity of the application of the Bayes formula for forensic use, the lack of data necessary to use the strict method, the unfamiliarity of most examiners with the statistical field in general and a number of other potential problems has created some division among examiners regarding its usage. In the United States, most examiners are still not aware of this method. This presentation will not serve to explain how to use the Bayesian method, but rather to simply discuss some of the controversy and obstacles that would suggest it is not a good choice for document examiners.

**Document, Bayesian, Reporting**