



**JAMES A. GRIFFIN**

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**FORENSIC  
TAPE  
SERVICES**

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**AUDIO & VIDEO TAPE  
Recorded Evidence Specialist**

**CONTACT**

**1-888-GRIFFIN • JAMES@FORENSICTAPE.COM • PH 601-353-7405 • FAX 601-353-7217**

**1715 EDGEWOOD STREET • JACKSON MS 39202**

# OFFERED SERVICES INCLUDE:

**TAPE ENHANCEMENT** of poor quality recordings

**AUTHENTICATION & ANALYSIS** of questioned recordings

**COURTROOM PRESENTATIONS** — Recordings digitized to CD or DVD for instant recall of any selection. Audio & Video Monitors for courtroom

**CONSULTATION & INVESTIGATION** of audio and video related matters

**REDACTION OF TAPES - TRANSCRIPT REVIEW & CORRECTION**

**COPYING OF TAPES from any format to any format**

**ANALYSIS & AUTHENTICITY EXAMINATIONS**



Analysis of an audio or video tape includes a number of procedures and tests designed to scientifically discover as much information as possible about how a tape was created. The testing will usually lead to findings on such issues as whether the tape is an original or a copy, presence of stops and re-starts of the tape during the original recording event, and the presence of edits, erasures, over-recordings and other anomalies that may have occurred after the tape was made. If the parties in control of the recording devices at the time the original recording was made have given statements regarding how the recording was made, the examination should be able to determine whether or not those statements are consistent with what actually occurred.

**AUDIO TAPE EXAMINATION INCLUDES MICROSCOPIC ANALYSIS**

**VIDEO TAPE EXAMINATION INCLUDES WAVEFORM ANALYSIS**

Required for analysis: A thorough examination requires the purported original recordings, the recording devices used to make the recordings, including any accessory devices such as AC adapters, telephone interconnect devices, transmitters, external microphones, and the like. Analysis is possible without the recording equipment, but the amount of information gained from testing might be limited.

**AUDIO ENHANCEMENT**

Audio enhancement seeks to make recorded conversations more intelligible by clarifying basic voice quality, reducing unwanted background noises, and raising the volume of distant voices. The process might involve using digital adaptive filters and sophisticated computer audio programs made in the USA and Russia, as well as more traditional analog processing devices such as equalizers and compressors. Any audio source can be enhanced, including standard cassette tapes, micro cassettes, reel to reel tapes, and video tapes containing poorly recorded audio tracks. The resulting cleaned up signal is then recorded onto separate audio tapes, compact discs, or video tapes, as required. **THE ORIGINAL TAPE IS NOT CHANGED OR HARMED IN ANY WAY.**

**TRANSCRIPT REVIEW & GENERATION**

Even after being enhanced, many recordings are still difficult to fully understand. Our superior digital playback equipment and acoustically-controlled listening environment often enables us to generate more accurate and complete written transcriptions of conversations where court reporters and legal staff have been unable to do so.

**SAFETY OF EVIDENCE**

When properly performed by a competent laboratory, the testing and/or enhancement does not damage or alter the submitted tapes in any way. Another laboratory or expert will be able to repeat any and all testing procedures. Our lab has never lost or damaged any submitted evidence.

## RECENT NOTABLE CASES

**OREGON vs KENNEDY** Our enhancement and transcription of an inaudible tape proved defendant's role in a murder. James Griffin testified at a pre-trial hearing on behalf of the State of Oregon. Defendant later pled guilty.

**ALABAMA vs THOMAS BLANTON** Reviewed and corrected errors in government's transcripts in the Birmingham Church Bombing case.

**PATTON vs. GEORGIA PACIFIC** Analyzed plaintiff's tape on behalf of defendant and proved that the recording had been entirely fabricated by plaintiff. The conversation which plaintiff alleged demonstrated unfair labor practices by defendant never took place. The Court dismissed the case after reviewing our report.

**GRIFFIN v NYNEX, et al** Plaintiff's recordings of his work environment were alleged to be altered copies by a defense expert. Our examination showed numerous flaws in the procedures and conclusions of the defense expert, after which the defense objections to the tapes were shown to be without merit.

**STEPHANIE ODOM-LEE v LIPSCOMB OIL et al** Plaintiff alleged harassment in work environment and produced audio recordings in support of claim. Analysis revealed normal work-related conversations, which plaintiff had altered in an attempt to incriminate employer.

**MISSISSIPPI v STEVE STRICKLER** A motorist on cocaine resisted arrest and struggled with several officers who were attempting to extract him from vehicle and restrain him. Suspect was later found dead in the jail and the officers were charged with manslaughter. Using the police radio traffic recording and the video tape from cruiser's dashboard camera, we created a real-time video program demonstrating that while on camera, the officers used appropriate non-lethal force and while off-camera, the officers didn't have time to injure the suspect. Steve Strickler was acquitted on June 4, 2002.

## OUR CLIENTS TELL US.....

**Mr. Wilkerson was acquitted of all charges.** I want to tell you how well your testimony went. You being able to contradict testimony that the tape had been stopped and started several times during the filming seemed to be of major impact. Besides being most professional in your work product, you made an excellent witness. Walter A. Greiss, Eutaw AL

**Without your help and expertise,** we would not have had the evidence we needed to be ready for trial. The evidence that you developed for us out of that amateur video tape strengthened our position. William A. Davis, Tallahassee FL

**Thank you for your valuable assistance** in the defense of Damian Lamb. I sincerely feel that without your contribution, we would not have been successful. Charles W. Wright, Meridian MS

**Please find enclosed the Washington Post article** detailing the freedom of Ellen Reasonover. Your enhancement of the Reasonover tapes was very important to the cause of freeing her through the Federal District Courts. Jim McCloskey, Centurion Ministries, Princeton NJ

**I want to thank you for the recent work** you did on a taped statement given by my client. My client was facing exposure that included a life without parole sentence and a 50 year sentence on top of that. Due to your excellent work, we were able to reach a plea bargain in which my client will do less than seven years total jail time. J. Michael Small, Alexandria LA

**Faced with twelve hours of largely unintelligible audio tape,** together with video tapes, confessions, masks, bags, and a particularly large .44 magnum, I was terrified of the state's case. You cleaned up the tapes, transforming statements which at first blush appeared to be further nails for my client's coffin into what they really were: purely exculpatory evidence. Absent your assistance, I would have been hard pressed to have obtained the hung jury result. Moreover, your command of the subject matter of the tapes rendered you an invaluable assistant at trial. Norman Silverman, Houston TX

# Vitae of JAMES A. GRIFFIN

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Nov 1992 - Present      **FORENSIC TAPE SERVICES, Jackson, MS Owner**  
Provides a full range of technical services to the legal community relating to the analysis, authentication, and enhancement of tape recordings. Retained in over 600 cases.
- June 1982 - Nov 1992    **PARALLAX RECORDING STUDIO, Jackson, MS Owner/engineer**  
Music production studio with clients including major recording artists, producers, record companies, and advertising agencies & producers.
- Aug 1982 - Dec 1982    **JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, Jackson, MS Adjuct faculty**  
Interim instructor of recording engineering, in Department of Communications
- June 1976 - June 1982   **MALACO RECORDING STUDIOS, Jackson, MS Chief Engineer**  
Oversaw operations, production, and technical maintenance in the two 24-track studios. Clients included major recording artists, producers, record companies, and advertising agencies & producers.
- Dec 1973 - Jan 1975    **KBRS RADIO, Springdale, AR Announcer, engineer**  
Part time announcer/engineer during high school and first year of college.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FORENSIC EXAMINERS  
AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC EXAMINERS, Diplomate status  
AMERICAN BOARD OF RECORDED EVIDENCE, Executive Board of Advisors  
ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY, Member of Working Group WG-12, Forensic Audio  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED:      (Copies Available Upon Request)

**10 TIPS FOR ATTORNEYS WITH TAPE-RECORDED EVIDENCE.** Aug 1995 in The Champion, a publication of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**A PROSECUTOR'S GUIDE TO OBTAINING AND PRESENTING AUDIO AND VIDEO EVIDENCE** Nov 1995 in The Prosecutor, a publication of the National District Attorney's Association

## **CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP:**

MISSISSIPPI PROSECUTOR'S ASSOCIATION, Jackson MS, Oct 1994. Presentation on enhancement and authentication of audio evidence in drug related cases.

TEXAS HOMICIDE SYMPOSIUM, Richardson TX, April 1996. Presentation: Recording The Suspect: Promises and Pitfalls

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS New Orleans, LA, Dec 1996. Presentation: The Reality of Recordings: The Good, Bad, and Ugly

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FORENSIC EXAMINERS / American Board of Recorded Evidence, Naples, FL, Oct 1998. Presentation: Enhancement of 911 Recordings: When The Case is in the Background.

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY, New York City, Oct 1997; San Francisco Sept 1998; Member of W-12 (Forensic Audio) Participation in board discussions to set standards for authentication and enhancement of audio evidence recordings

TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS PROJECT Forensics Seminar August 2003. Presentation on Audio and Video Evidence

## **ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING:**

DIGITAL AUDIO CORPORATION'S Dac School. March 1996. Specialized training in tape enhancement and digital signal processing.

NEW YORK INSTITUTE FOR FORENSIC AUDIO, May 1998. Courses include Audio Tape authentication and enhancement, Video Tape authentication and enhancement, Voice Identification/Elimination.

IAI 83rd INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, July 1998. Topics included vocal profiling, voice identification, automatic speaker recognition, covert audio recording, acoustic analysis of gunshots, analysis of on-hook telephone transients.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FORENSIC EXAMINERS / American Board of Recorded Evidence, Oct 1998. Topics included enhancement, video/film authentication, voice identification

# JAMES A. GRIFFIN TESTIMONY HISTORY

## *Civil*

**Gary Randle v City of Ft. Worth, et al**, US District Court, N Div Texas, Ft. Worth, Civil Action No. 4:93-CV-694-Y. Prepared enhancement and transcript on behalf of defendants. Gave deposition at request of plaintiff on 10-25-95. Attorneys for Defendant: Mark A. Cover and Stuart B. Johnston, c/o VINSON & ELKINS, Dallas, TX (214) 220-7700

Malbrough v State Farm, US District Court, E District of Louisiana, New Orleans, C.A. No 95-3340-C. Authenticated recordings on behalf of defendant, testified at trial October 1996. Attorneys for defendant: Wayne Lee and Anne Winter, c/o STONE PIGMAN, New Orleans, LA (504)581-3200

Mascaro v Mascaro, 22d JDC, Louisiana. Authenticated and enhanced recordings, corrected transcripts, produced compact disc for trial playback on behalf of defendant. Testified by deposition, May 1998. Attorney for defendant: Andy Lee, Jones Walker, New Orleans, LA. (504)582-8664

Stephanie Odom-Lee vs. Lipscomb Oil, US District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, Civ Action No: 3:01CV550LN. Testified at defendant s hearing on motion for sanctions against plaintiff for fabricating evidence. Sept 17, 2002. Silas McCharen, Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, attorney for defendant (601)969-7607

Michael Pardue vs. City of Saraland, Alabama, et al, US District Court, Southern District of Alabama, Southern Division, CV-99-0799-RV-M. Examined police interrogation tape of plaintiff made in 1973. Testified in deposition at request of defendants, February 27, 2003. James G. Curenton, Jr, attorney for plaintiff 251-928-3993. Drew Christman, attorney for defendant 334-834-9950. Larry Wettermark, attorney for defendant 251-476-4493

## *Criminal*

Mississippi v Walter Thomas, 11th Judicial District, Mississippi. Enhanced tape recordings and testified at trial on behalf of state, February 1996. Ed Snyder, Assistant Attorney General (601)359-3680.

North Carolina v Leopold Armstrong, 93-CRS-942 Robeson County, NC. Authenticated recordings on behalf of defendant. Testified at suppression hearing and at trial, July 1996. Angus B. Thompson, Jr., attorney for defendant (910)671-3364

Alabama v Steve Wilkerson, Circuit Court of Marengo County, AL Enhanced and authenticated recordings on behalf of defendant, testified at trial October 1996. Walter Griess, attorney for defendant (205) 372-9333

Texas v Patrick Delasbour, 179 D.C. Harris County TX. Enhanced approx 12 hours of tape recordings on behalf of defendant. Testified at pre-trial hearing and at trial, Feb 1997. Norman J. Silverman, attorney for defendant. (713)546-7060

Michigan vs Charles Fisher, Circuit Court of Wayne County MI. The tape of a 911 call made by defendant was garbled and unintelligible in places. A transcript produced by the state placed incriminating words in the mouth of defendant. Our enhancement and analysis of the original tape revealed that the incriminating words were not on the tape and never could have been on the tape. Testified at trial on behalf of defendant, September 1997. James M. Kincaid, attorney for defendant. (313) 965-4384

Georgia vs Marcus Ray Johnson, Circuit Court of Doherty County, GA. Our examination of a suspect interrogation tape revealed that the police officer had stopped the tape, despite his testimony to the contrary. An FBI expert later examined tape and agreed. Testified at pre-trial hearing, September, 1997 and at trial April 1998. Ronnie Joe Lane, attorney for defendant. (912)524-2149.

Kansas vs John Cheek, Circuit Court of Wyandotte County, KS. After an altercation in a bar, a security guard was killed by an off-duty police officer, who was then charged and convicted of first degree murder. The conviction was overturned on appeal and a new trial held. Our analysis of the 911 tape pinpointed the location and timing of gunshots, revealing that the shots could not have occurred as some prosecution witnesses had testified that they did. Cheek was convicted of lesser charge of manslaughter. Testified at trial, April 13 1998. James R. Hobbs, Cheryl Pilate, attorneys for defendant. (816) 221-0080.

Oregon vs. Kennedy, Circuit Court of Benton County, OR. Testified by telephone at pre-trial hearing on behalf of State of Oregon Attorney General's Office. September 2000

Mississippi vs. Steve Strickler, Circuit Court of Jackson County, MS Testified at Trial on behalf of defendant. May 31, 2002. Frank Trapp, Phelps Dunbar, Jackson MS.

Mississippi vs. Thaddeus Edmonson Circuit Court, Jones County MS. Testified in at trial regarding enhancement of audio tracks of poor quality video tapes on behalf of state, April 1, 2003. Lee Martin, Assistant Attorney General.

USA v Rudy A. Sdoulam, et al. No. 02-00131-01-CR-W-4 USDC, Western Dist of Missouri. Enhanced gov't recordings, corrected errors and omissions in gov't transcripts, testified at trial on behalf of defendant, May 19, 2003. James R. Wyrsh, Justin J. Johnston, attorneys for defendant 816-221-0080.

Oregon v. Gary Repp Medford OR Analysis of 911 recording contradicted state's theory of case. Testified at trial Feb 18, 2004. Defendant acquitted. Jeni Feinberg,

# FEE SCHEDULE

Rev Jan 2003

*Our rates, employment, and retainer arrangement are governed by the laws of the state of Mississippi. All fees and retainers are non-refundable.*

**\$200 HOURLY RATE** for services, including Authentication and Enhancement, lab work, written reports, depositions, testimony and portal-to-portal travel. A retainer is quoted on the basis of a preliminary discussion of client's needs and is required in advance of commencement, with following **MINIMUM ADVANCE RETAINERS:**

<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>AUDIO ENHANCEMENT</b>
<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>VIDEO ENHANCEMENT .</b>
<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>AUDIO AUTHENTICATION (Per tape)</b>
<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>VIDEO AUTHENTICATION. (Per tape)</b>
<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>TESTIMONY (in court or deposition) per day or any part thereof</b>
<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>TRAVEL for on-site work, per day</b>
<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>To be named as an expert of record.</b>
<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>To file an Affidavit (per Affidavit)</b>

Estimated travel expenses are also payable in advance. Actual charges will appear on final invoice and client will be credited or billed as necessary.

## **TAPE COPIES ONLY**

Any length tape, any audio or video format: **\$20 each**

Additional Notes:

SHIPPING & DELIVERY charges added to all invoices

DELIVERY OF MATERIALS: We prefer to send all materials via overnight courier or hand delivery.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

**Our business is based upon integrity and trustworthiness. We are happy to execute confidentiality agreements when requested by counsel or courts.**