

# AntiPolygraph.org

9 June 2006

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Mr. Donald Weinstein  
Chairperson, Ethics & Grievance Committee  
American Polygraph Association

directorthree@polygraph.org

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I write to you in your capacity as chairperson of the American Polygraph Association (APA)'s Ethics & Grievance Committee to bring to your attention misconduct by Edward I. Gelb of Los Angeles, a past president of the APA, who I believe remains a member.

In marketing his polygraph services, Mr. Gelb holds himself out to the public as holding a Ph.D. degree in psychology. On his website (<http://www.polygraphexpert.org>), Mr. Gelb styles himself, "Dr. Edward I. Gelb, Ph.D." In 1997, he represented himself as a Ph.D. to the United States Supreme Court as a co-signer (<http://truth.boisestate.edu/amicus/list.html>) of the Committee of Concerned Social Scientists' amicus brief (<http://truth.boisestate.edu/amicus/brief.html>) in *U.S. v. Scheffer*, where he is listed as "Ed Gelb, Ph.D."

However, AntiPolygraph.org has assembled compelling evidence that Mr. Gelb never received a doctoral degree from any accredited university. The comprehensive *Dissertation Abstracts* database (the definitive worldwide collection of doctoral dissertations including over 1.6 million records dating back to 1861) includes no doctoral dissertation by an Edward Gelb.

AntiPolygraph.org has obtained a copy of Gelb's resume (see attachment) that was included in court documents filed in a civil suit in 2002. Writing about himself in the third person, here is what Gelb says about his educational background: "Dr. Gelb was educated at the University of Southern California, LaSalle University and U.C.L.A.. He has been awarded a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in psychology."

Gelb doesn't state where or when he earned which degree. Perhaps he wished the court to infer that he listed the universities in the same order that he listed his degrees and that he earned a bachelor's degree at USC, a master's degree at LaSalle, and a doctorate at UCLA. But this is certainly not the case. Had Gelb earned his Ph.D. at UCLA (or USC), his dissertation would

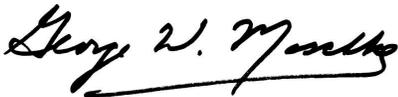
surely be included in the *Dissertation Abstracts* database. That leaves LaSalle University. There is a legitimate institution of higher learning called LaSalle University in Philadelphia, but it awarded its first Ph.D. degree of any kind in 2002, years after Gelb began putting the letters “Ph.D.” after his name. Mr. Gelb did not earn a doctoral degree there.

The “LaSalle University” that awarded Gelb his “doctorate” is a defunct, unaccredited diploma mill in Mandeville, Louisiana that was owned and operated by one Thomas James Kirk, A.K.A. Thomas McPherson. In 1996, LaSalle was raided by the FBI, and in 1997 Kirk pled guilty to federal fraud charges.

On 2 May 2006, the city council of Long Beach, California voted to approve a \$150,000 one-year, extensible contract with Mr. Gelb’s company, Intercept, Inc., to provide polygraph services to the Long Beach Police Department. Mr. Gelb’s misrepresentation of himself as a Ph.D. may have unduly influenced Long Beach officials’ decision making in awarding this contract. Mr. Gelb’s claim to academic honors he has not earned gives him an unfair competitive edge over those who do not fraudulently claim to have doctoral degrees and misleads the public.

I trust that you will promptly investigate this matter, and I look forward to receiving, in accordance with section 9.1.1.5 of the APA bylaws, notification from the General Chair “of whether disciplinary action was taken.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Maschke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

George W. Maschke  
AntiPolygraph.org

PS: A copy of this complaint will be made available on AntiPolygraph.org.

Enclosure:

Resume of Edward I. Gelb

# RESUME

**EDWARD I. GELB, Ph.D., A.C.P., A.C.F.E.**

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

### **Forensic Psychophysicologist**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. Gelb was formally trained in the polygraph technique at the Backster School of Lie Detection. He has conducted in excess of 30,000 polygraph examinations since 1969 and has testified as an expert in front of courts and legislative bodies throughout the country. Dr. Gelb has conducted specific criminal incident examinations for Fortune 500 companies, criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors and governmental agencies. He was appointed by the Los Angeles Superior Court to administer 400 polygraph examinations to effect settlement of two class action suits. Dr. Gelb is one of the few experts whose testimony is accepted by the Los Angeles Police Commission. He has polygraphed for the Federal Public Defender's office and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office. He presently conducts examinations for hundreds of attorneys as well as five police agencies. He is called upon to present expert testimony in polygraph and conduct quality control reviews of both law enforcement and private sector polygraph examinations. Dr. Gelb has been in the investigative field since 1956. He was a detective and lieutenant with the Los Angeles Police Department where he was the recipient of the Medal of Valor.

Dr. Gelb was educated at the University of Southern California, LaSalle University and U.C.L.A.. He has been awarded a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in psychology. His teaching credentials include programs at U.S.C., Delta College, and the Polytechnic Institute in Madrid, Spain. Dr. Gelb was appointed an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute. He has conducted research in lie detection under the auspices of the United States Government.

Dr. Gelb lectures on an on-going basis at continuing education seminars throughout the United States, Europe and South America. He taught polygraph at a school fully accredited by the American Polygraph Association and taught "Detection of Deception" under the auspices of the American Society For Industrial Security. Dr. Gelb was a guest instructor at the Federal Bureau Of Investigation's advanced polygraph course.

Dr. Gelb served as President, Executive Director, and Chairman of the Board of the American Polygraph Association. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Certified Polygraphists. He has held General Polygraph Licenses from the states of California, Oregon, Utah, and Arizona. He is a member of the California Association of Polygraph Examiners, Northwest Polygraph Examiner's Association, Ohio Association of Polygraph Examiners, and the American Society For Industrial Security. He holds life membership in the American Polygraph Association and was the first person honored as the Polygraphist of the Year by the Academy of Certified Polygraphists. Dr. Gelb is a Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners.

Dr. Gelb was selected by Columbia Pictures television to represent the polygraph profession in a nationally syndicated television program during which 461 cases were examined by polygraph without a single identified error. Dr. Gelb conducted polygraph examinations on issues of national interest for Madrid, Spain's Channel 5 Television station, Telecinco for two years. He is a recipient of the prestigious Leonarde Keeler award presented by the American Polygraph Association. Dr. Gelb has been certified by examination to conduct post conviction clinical polygraph examinations of sex offenders.