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Digital Forensics Investigations
Computer and Smartphone Evidence Preservation, Data Recovery, and Data Analysis
Digital Forensics Expert Testimony

Listed below is a fee schedule for LJONES CFA services. This fee schedule is not all comprehensive, but does include the most common services provided. LJONES CFA recommends the execution of a **client service agreement** which specifies the requested services and estimated costs of those services. As part of the client service agreement, LJONES CFA may request the payment of an **initial retainer**. The amount of the initial retainer will be based on the type of services to be provided and the number of devices to be examined.

When an initial retainer is paid, the below rates are applied to the retainer balance until the retainer is depleted. Once the initial retainer is depleted, an additional retainer will be required. Clients may request a **retainer cap** with the understanding that services will cease upon reaching the retainer cap.

In investigations where an attorney is the retaining client, a **representation letter** from the attorney can be used in place of the client service agreement.

Fee Schedule

Service	Effective Rate January 1, 2023
Client Consultations include meetings and communications with clients, their representatives, or third-parties to discuss pre-investigation planning, investigation progress or the presentation of investigation results. Client Consultations can include phone calls, emails, text messages, or in-person meetings.	\$75/hour
Evidence Identification and Intake includes taking custody of evidence and documenting the devices provided for investigation and analysis. This includes recording the descriptors of submitted evidence (make, model and serial number) as well as any damage, defects, or abnormalities in the evidence submitted. Evidence identification also includes photographing the evidence. A Chain of Custody for each item received will be generated in the event testimony is required regarding the evidence. Rates include:	\$50 per computer, smartphone or tablet \$25 per device for other storage devices

Service	Effective Rate January 1, 2023
<p>Evidence Preservation and Data Acquisition includes efforts to maintain evidence in its original unaltered state (using write-blockers), and to acquire an exact forensic copy of the original evidence for analysis. Data acquisitions of live systems are sometimes necessary on devices with encrypted data or which employ special boot settings such as Secure Boot. Fees for preservation and data acquisition are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows computers with internal hard drives having a maximum storage of 500 gigabytes or less with no encryption - \$250 • Windows computers with internal hard drives having a maximum storage capacity greater than 500 gigabytes with no encryption - \$375 • Smartphones or Tablets (Specialized software is required to acquire these devices, and the password, PIN or biometric access may be required) - \$400 • Linux or Unix based computers with no encryption - \$300 • Apple Mac computers with an Intel memory chip and no encryption - \$300 • Apple Mac computers with non-Intel memory chips using the T2 encrypted security chip (these computers generally require specialized software to acquire based on the encrypted chip - \$500 • External hard drives including thumb drives having a maximum storage capacity of 64 gigabytes or less - \$50 • External hard drives including thumb drives having a maximum storage capacity of greater than 64 gigabytes - \$125 • Volatile computer memory (RAM) - \$125 • Website content for cloud storage, social media accounts and email - \$125 	See Bulleted List
<p>Data Recovery and Data Processing includes the processing of digital evidence using computer forensic software to recover and extract data from the evidence. Data processing can be used to categorize data types to assist in the further analysis. Data processing may also include the generating of specific reports for the Client's review. These reports can include a full file listing of individual evidence items, a listing of previously attached USB devices to computers, and a listing of recently opened/accessed files from computer devices. The providing of these reports to the Client does not include Examiner data analysis, but these reports can reduce the amount of time needed for Examiner data analysis.</p>	<p>\$30 per hour for general processing</p> <p>\$100 per specific report production</p>
<p>Data Analysis includes Examiner performed analysis of processed digital evidence as requested by the client as part of the investigation. Some examples of Data analysis may include the extraction of a user's Internet history; identification of a user's file activity, filtering and review of a user's email; isolation and review of a user's text messages, identification of file metadata in photos and Microsoft Office documents.</p>	\$125/hour
<p>Securely Erasing Data includes the destruction of sensitive data contained on older, discarded digital media which would prevent the later recovery of the data. Data on the device is destroyed by overwriting all data, and a verification log of the data destruction can be provided.</p>	\$25/hour

Service	Effective Rate January 1, 2023
<p>Review of Non-electronic Documents includes the review of written documents and reports such as written and electronic reports generated by the government in criminal cases and reports prepared by other experts in support of civil litigation.</p>	<p>\$100/hour</p>
<p>Preliminary Forensic Report includes a high level analysis of data extracted from a single device. The Preliminary Forensic Report includes both extracted data and a written report including an explanation of the extracted data. This Preliminary Forensic Report can be provided for client review to determine whether further investigation is necessary. The Preliminary Forensic Report would include the factual analysis of data without the use of expert opinions. The Preliminary Forensic Report would combine the Evidence Identification, Evidence Preservation, Data Acquisition, Preliminary Forensic Report Preparation, and initial Client Consultation regarding the report into a single package. The most common example of Preliminary Forensic Report includes the extraction of computer data to determine if a current or former employee may have removed corporate data using a removable device (USB), a cloud storage account, or personal email as a vehicle to steal the data (Theft of Proprietary Data).</p>	<p>\$1,750 for single computer/laptop. If no written report is required, \$1,000 per computer/laptop device</p>
<p>Expert Opinion Forensic Report includes a detailed analysis and a written expert opinion report generated at the client's request for presentation in court. The Expert Opinion Forensic Report is generally used for deposition and court testimony. An expert opinion forensic report generally requires 8 hours or more to prepare and finalize.</p>	<p>\$125/hour</p>
<p>Expert Testimony includes testimony at a deposition, hearing, or trial. Expert Testimony is usually provided in conjunction with the Expert Opinion Forensic Report. The hourly rate for Expert Testimony would include rates for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimony preparation with the Client; • Actual testimony; • Courtroom review of other witnesses and experts; and • Stand-by time at the courthouse awaiting testimony. 	<p>\$125/hour</p>
<p>All Other Investigative Activities not specifically included in the above categories. These investigative services may include interviews and obtaining records. Some general investigative services, such as physical surveillance, are not provided by LJONES CFA.</p>	<p>\$75/hour</p>
<p>Training includes providing formal presentations on a range of topics such as securing personal information, identifying and preventing fraudulent or phishing emails, identifying insider threats, and minimizing the risk of ransomware. This training can be specifically tailored to the audience.</p>	<p>\$500 per hour presentation</p>
<p>An hourly rate and mileage rate for automobile Travel is applied if travel is required outside the Louisiana parishes of Livingston or East Baton Rouge. Travel Expenses other than automobile travel such as air fare for required travel is a reimbursable expense.</p>	<p>Travel - \$25/hour Mileage – 65.5 cents / mile</p>
<p>Evidence Release includes the release of evidence upon completion of the investigation or analysis. The release of any evidence is recorded in the evidence chain of custody documentation.</p>	<p>\$25 per device</p>

Service	Effective Rate January 1, 2023
All Reasonable Expenses incurred are reimbursed at their actual cost. These expenses could include parking, required hotel accommodations, per diem and supplies such as digital devices used to stage data for client's review.	Actual Cost