

Sandra Ferrari Disner, Ph.D.

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Employment Background:

Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, University of Southern California	2006-present
Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, UCLA	2006
Consultant, Speech Synthesis, NeoSpeech, Inc., Fremont CA	2003-2005
Consultant, Speech Recognition, Breveon, Inc., Sunnyvale CA	1999-2001
Visiting Lecturer for "Introduction to Phonetics", UCLA	1997
Visiting Lecturer in "Cognitive Linguistics", Cal State Northridge	1996
Linguistic Consultant, Centigram, Inc. (later Lernout & Hauspie), San Jose CA	1988-1997
Expert Witness in Forensic Phonetics	1983-present
Member, Technical Staff, Mattel Electronics	1981-83
Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, U.C. Riverside	1981
Visiting Scholar, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ	1979-80
Translator (Spanish, French, Italian, German), U.S. Dept. of State, Washington D.C.	1973-75

Representative Publications and Conference Presentations:

- S. Fulop and S. Disner (2009). *Advanced time-frequency displays applied to forensic speaker identification*. Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 125, 4(2):2530.
- S. Fulop and S. Disner (2007). *Using the reassigned spectrogram for voice identification*. Paper presented at the 16th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Saarbrücken, Germany.
- S. Disner (2007). *A new tool for speaker identification*. Paper presented at the 8th Biennial Conference, International Assn. of Forensic Linguists, Seattle, WA.
- S. Disner (2004). Panel discussion, *Everything you always wanted to know about voices, but were afraid to ask*. SpeechTEK, New York, NY.
- S. Disner (1986). *On describing vowel quality*. In J.J. Ohala & J. J. Jaeger, Experimental Phonology. Orlando: Academic Press.
- S. Disner (1985). *Insights on vowel spacing: results of a language survey*. In Ian Maddieson, Patterns of Sounds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- S. Disner (1983) [doctoral dissertation]. *Vowel quality: the relation between universal and language-specific factors*. UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics, 58:1-158.
- S. Disner (1980). *Evaluation of vowel normalization procedures*. Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 67:253-261.
- S. Disner (1978) [master's thesis]. *Vowels in Germanic Languages*. UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics 40:1-79.
- P. Ladefoged, A. Cochrane, and S. Disner (1977). *Laterals and trills*. Journal of the International Phonetic Association, 7:46-54.

Representative Legal Cases:

Trademark litigation between Walgreen Company and Sylmark Holdings, Inc. Arlyn Alonzo, Esq., Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz, LLP (April 2008).

Trademark litigation between Hasbro, Inc. and MGA Entertainment, Inc. Kent Raygor, Esq., Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP (November 2006).

Trademark litigation between Deckers Outdoor Corporation and Koolaburra et al. Carlo Van den Bosch, Esq., Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP (January 2005).

Trademark litigation between Innovative Beverage Concepts, Inc. and Ames International, Inc.
Alan Kindred, Esq., Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger (June 2004).

Trademark litigation between Ameriquest Mortgage Company and Americrest Bank.
Mitchell N. Reinis, Esq., Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger (November 2003).

Trademark litigation between Bandolino Shoes and Bando Fashions.
Joseph Golant, Esq. and Jim Stewart, Esq., Morgan, Lewis & Bockius (February 1992).

Voice identification in a rape case, People v. Smith; consideration of vocal disguise.
Office of the District Attorney, Denver, Colorado (May 1991).

Voice comparison between bomb threats and voice of plaintiff in a false-prosecution case, Henderson v. Cedars-Sinai Hospital. Linda Miller, Esq., Law Offices of Rushfeldt, Shelley & McCurdy (January 1988).

Voice comparison between bomb threats to Pan American Airlines and voice of defendant, People v. Prinzivalli. Ronald A. Ziff, Esq. (March 1984).

Voice comparison between a tape recording and known exemplars of the voice of L. Ron Hubbard, thought to be missing or deceased. Mr. Robert Levin (January 1984).

Voice comparison between tape recording (provided by Larry Flynt) and known exemplars of the voice of John Z. DeLorean. ABC Television News (October 1983).

Educational Background:

U.C.L.A., *M.A.* (1978), *Ph.D.* (1983) in Linguistics; specialization in phonetics
Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (1972-3)
Wellesley College, *B.A.* (1972) Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Organizations:

Member, Acoustical Society of America
Member, International Phonetics Association
Member, Linguistic Society of America
Member, International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics
Member, International Association of Forensic Linguists

Inventions:

U.S. Patent #5,634,084 “Abbreviation and Acronym/Initialism Expansion Procedures for a Text-to-Speech System”, with B. Malsheen and G. Groner

Grants:

USC Fund for Innovative Undergraduate Teaching grant for research in speaker identification, 2009.