



More details to consider:

- Look for solid experience. Has he or she testified before? Where? When?
- Verify the expert's credentials. Are they appropriate for your situation?
- Are there any skeletons in the expert's closet — and can you rehabilitate them?
- Can the expert supply references, citations and documents to support their own written reports or testimony?

It is far better to learn the answers to these critical questions at the beginning of your relationship than during their testimony.

Know what you are getting into:

Don't neglect one other important aspect of using an expert: the cost.

- Does the expert charge separately for research, report writing, travel, lab work, declaration, deposition, or trial?
- At what point have you made a commitment to use the expert's services?
- Is the charge hourly or a flat fee?
- Are any fees or expenses required in advance? When is final payment due?
- Is the county required to pay for an expert?
- Can you afford their service? **Can you afford *not* to have an expert testify?**

About the author:

Internationally recognized marijuana and hemp expert, author, and museum curator Chris Conrad provides expert consultations, analysis, reports, charts, declarations and highly credible courtroom testimony on all aspects of cannabis. Consistent and accurate information and opinions are presented in a clear manner that creates understanding and rapport with judge and jury alike.

Chris Conrad, Cannabis Expert

- Legal, hands-on cannabis breeding, cultivation, harvesting, manicure and processing experience in The Netherlands and Switzerland; site observations in the US, Canada, Germany and Spain
- Qualified in more than 30 California Superior Courts and two federal court districts; declarations accepted in other states and nations
- Issues include: All aspects of cannabis cultivation, sex, yields, consumption, medical use, storage, industrial hemp, personal / commercial indicia, etc.
- Investigated hundreds of criminal cases; submitted dozens of declarations; testified scores of times;
- Conducts forensic examination, review of police reports, photo and video analysis, site research
- Cites documented government research, published literature, personal training and experience

For current rates and curriculum vitae, contact:

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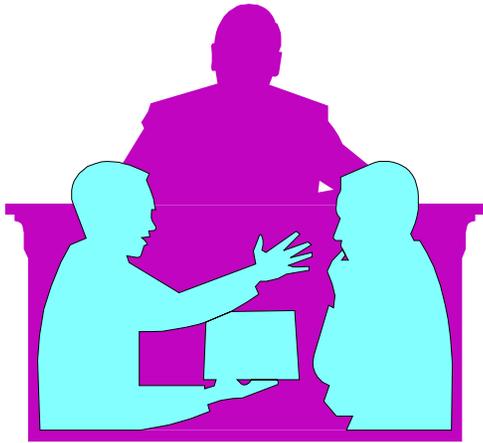
Expert Witness



The value of
using an
Expert Witness

In our adversarial legal system, witnesses with special training are allowed to testify to their opinions regarding factual issues. When the prosecution offers faulty expert testimony, the only way to counter that is to offer an expert of equivalent experience, training, and credibility to rebut it and give judge or jury a more accurate accounting and interpretation of evidence.

By Chris Conrad
Court qualified cannabis expert



A court-qualified expert witness brings specialized knowledge of a specific topic and aspect of the law. The designation refers to being recognized as an expert on the stand by a sitting judge.

Experts can offer consultations, reports, testimony and depositions for attorneys, law firms, judges, juries, government agencies and insurance companies in state and federal court hearings, trials and arbitrations.

Why would you want to hire an expert to work for the defense?

- Draw upon their technical and legal experience to develop a strong defense
- Test the merits and weaknesses of both defense and prosecution theories
- Counter prosecution expert opinions
- Demonstrate investigation deficiencies
- Send a message to opposing counsel that they are in for some serious resistance
- Create leverage for plea negotiations
- Bridge over jury and judicial bias

An expert can help the defense in many ways, often without testifying:

- Suggest questions for police experts
- Examine site and physical evidence
- Evaluate photo and taped evidence
- Analyze police report details
- Investigate facts and figures
- Perform relevant experiments
- Produce a report or declaration
- Provide technical background

On the stand, an expert can:

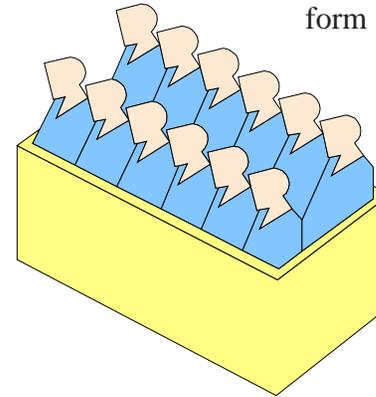
- Corroborate other testimony
- Dispute interpretation of evidence
- Discuss fact-based hypotheticals
- Rely on certain hearsay evidence
- Establish if evidence is consistent with common practices and behavior patterns
- Offer alternative explanations to law enforcement's version of events
- Explain exculpatory circumstances
- Prepare charts, diagrams and photos
- Challenge indicia of specific intent
- Illustrate ambiguity and reasonable doubt

In event of a conviction:

- An expert can still help with sentencing and probation issues by reviewing any mitigating circumstances and disputing the severity of the offense.

What is the relationship between attorney, client and their expert witness?

With the client's consent, the attorney will contract with a qualified expert to do further investigations and consider the evidence. Since an expert does not have the benefit of



confidentiality, some attorneys keep strict control over communications between client and expert witness; others encourage direct contact. The expert will consider your theories and objectively review the file, but will form their own opinion as to whether or not it is consistent with the evidence. While there's always a possibility they will find nothing helpful to your client, there's a better chance they will advance your findings and theories when the material you supply is well-organized, thorough, and clear regarding your theory and objectives.

One thing you do not want to do is put the expert on the stand with biased, inaccurate or incomplete information that will work against your case during cross examination.

What to look for in an expert:

- Credible educational background
- Specialized real-life experience
- Experience on the stand
- Professional demeanor
- Knowledge of the law
- Solid reputation



If you need a cannabis expert, get the best ...
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