

Seven Key Characteristics of an Effective Engineering Expert Witness (In no particular order of importance)

He or she –

- **Is a licensed professional engineer (P.E.). This certification requires that the individual: be of good character (as confirmed by multiple references); have at least a B.S.- level degree in engineering; has successfully completed an initial 8-hour examination (based on engineering theory); has completed at least four years of engineering work experience under the supervision of a P.E. and has successfully completed a second, 8-hour examination of his or her abilities in practical engineering problem-solving and using judgment.**
- **Provides prompt and completely objective feedback to the retaining attorney on the engineering merits and/or weaknesses of both his or her client's case and the opposing counsel's case. Thus the retaining attorney can determine *early* if he or she will designate the engineer as an expert *or* use him or her otherwise.**
- **Has solid technical experience (possibly coupled with graduate education) appropriate to the case and technical issues in question. He or she is readily believable as an expert for the specific issues.**
- **Demonstrates effective interpersonal relations with all persons plus excellent oral and written communication abilities. Presents his or her findings and conclusions clearly so that all parties understand. Makes use of applicable analogies when explaining complex issues. Maintains a continuing consultative dialog, as requested, with the retaining attorney during the case.**
- **Is perceived as totally professional and objective. Has no hint of being a "hired gun".**
- **Is calm, respectful of all persons plus their positions and gives a clear impression of impartiality during deposition or during direct and cross examinations at trial.**
- **Can (and will) provide referrals for the retaining attorney to other technical experts with specialized knowledge if the attorney's client can be assisted by that addition.**