

# FORENSIC ENGINEERING

## BEING AN EXPERT WITNESS

### References:

The Expert Witness Handbook - A Guide for Engineers, D.G. Sunar, Professional Publications, San Carlos, CA, ISBN 0-932276-51-2.

The Expert Witness Guide for Scientists and Engineers, A.E. Surosky, Krieger Publishing, ISBN 0-89464-749-0.

### Why is an Expert needed?

- When legal system, insurance companies, or arbitrators needs technical knowledge not available to the average person.

### Who does the expert work for?

- Attorneys on behalf of plaintiff or defendant. (More often defendant).
- Insurance Companies
- The Court can hire expert as "friend of the court."
- Individuals.

### What Does an "Expert" do?

- Preliminary investigation to determine merits or lack thereof.
- Scientific or technical investigations.
- Pre-trial "discovery procedures." (depositions, etc.)
- Examination and cross-examination during trial.

### Qualifications

- Licensed Professional Engineer
- Prominent or at least well-established in field of question
- No conflict of interest
- No history of testimony that is contradictory
- Balance of forensic work and keeping up to date in field.