

THE WORK OF BUSINESS

EXPERT WITNESS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

You're not just in the nursing business now; you're in the expert witness business! Your ongoing education should include growing both!

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I joined Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA) in 2014 because I realized that I would benefit from more information about being an expert witness. I know how to be a nurse, and I have learned and continue to learn about being a life care planner. I felt that my skills in preparing reports for the harsh eye of the legal world, testifying, and keeping an expert witness business going would benefit from even more education. If you would like to understand the litigation process, learn how to write and testify more effectively and learn more about being an expert, check out FEWA!

FEWA does not focus on one particular professional discipline. It is a professional association for expert witnesses from all professional fields. I have met experts in engineering, medicine, forestry, jewelry appraisal and many more.

Unlike some other organizations that exist solely to market and promote the services of experts to the legal



community, FEWA serves a unique mission: Providing professional education and development to those who serve as expert witnesses. Thus, FEWA membership is a mark of professionalism and commitment that can differentiate an expert when attorneys or clients are considering engaging an expert's services.

FEWA was founded in 1994 in Orange County, California. It is dedicated to the professional development, ethics, and promotion of forensic consultants in all fields of discipline, bringing together a diverse group of professionals sharing common goals. The association offers its members the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and techniques in effective forensic research, and how to present it properly in reports, depositions, and trial testimony. FEWA members include professionals in medical fields, accounting and business valuation, insurance, security, real estate, law enforcement, accident reconstruction, engineering, and a wide variety of other professional specialties. Originally found only in California, FEWA Chapters are now established in other regions of the country as well. Local chapters provide members with great value in regular meetings with speakers on professional development topics of interest on ethics, legal issues, practice development, and networking. FEWA currently has nine active chapters that are governed by local Boards of Directors as subsidiaries of the FEWA National Office and National Board of Directors. (See sidebar)

FEWA also hosts an annual national conference, next in Spring 2016 in San Francisco, CA. The conference provides experts, and aspiring experts, of all levels and disciplines an opportunity to advance their expert witness skills, network with peers and attorneys, as well as build their referral base.

FEWA maintains a website at www.Forensic.org with information on members and chapter events. The website has a searchable online

database of member experts by area of specialization and geographic location. There's a link to the free quarterly newsletter with interesting articles by and about expert witnesses. Additionally, FEWA publishes an annual hard copy expert directory distributed to law firms across the country.

FEWA has a professional certification program for experts, the Certified Forensic Litigation Consultant (CFLC) credential for qualified expert witnesses and forensic consultants. The CFLC is granted exclusively to FEWA Professional members who have met the eligibility criteria established requiring significant participation in FEWA activities and completion of education courses in the subjects of forensic analysis, litigation consulting and expert witnessing.

I have attended the FEWA annual conference for two years in a row and I find the classes and the camaraderie to be very beneficial to my knowl-



FEWA Chapters

Arizona: Phoenix
California: Orange County, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego
Florida: Tampa
Illinois: Chicago
Texas: Dallas, Houston

edge and confidence as an expert witness. Although I have also taken full-day classes with a private for-profit expert witness company, I feel that the benefits of FEWA made a more lasting impression on my practice and lifelong relationships with others in the litigation business. I encourage all AANLCP members to consider attending the local chapter meeting if there is one in your community and to attend the annual conference in April. See you there!



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