



## Frequently Asked Questions about the Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA)

### What is a FEWA Member?

- A FEWA member is someone who has committed themselves to a set of professional ethics and standards in addition to the requirements of any other professional (industry specific) standards.
- A FEWA member understands or desires to have a better understanding of the local or federal rules of civil procedure by attending local chapter meetings and/or the national conference. Many of the FEWA educational programs are provided by attorneys and judges.
- A FEWA member is one who has chosen to “raise their game” in terms of providing clients with a more professional expert report and is better prepared to defend opinion under cross-examination in litigation.

### If I join FEWA will I somehow diminish my professional reputation or label me as a hired gun?

No. In fact, explaining to the trier of fact what FEWA is gives the witness the opportunity to espouse on FEWA’s Professional Code of Ethics and the fact that it is a non-profit whose purpose is *“to promote the highest standards of professionalism to all members, to educate, to protect the general welfare of the forensic profession and its members, to improve the practice of the professional forensic expert, to advance the profession of forensic consulting in all fields of the discipline and to offer expertise and knowledge to the forensic and legal industry as a whole.”*

### What are the levels of FEWA membership?

There are three (3) membership levels, as follows:

*Professional Member.* A forensic consultant in any recognized field who has completed a minimum of 3 verifiable forensic engagements (testimonies and/or depositions).

*Associate Member.* A forensic consultant who has 2 or less verifiable forensic engagements (testimonies and/or depositions)

*Affiliate Member.* A professional using or supporting forensic consultants.

For those who are looking to become forensic consultants, an Associate Membership with FEWA is the perfect way to break into the field and learn invaluable tools towards becoming an expert witness.



**If I join FEWA should I add my membership to the association on my CV?**

Yes. Membership with FEWA conveys that the consultant/expert aspires to standard setting of ethical behavior in a continuing education environment.

**I get a solicitation almost every day to join a print or online directory of experts, I am not sure in can afford another association with an organization. What can I expect that is unique about FEWA membership?**

FEWA is unique in that it provides local chapter meetings where timely and pertinent education concerning preferred expert witness behavior and presentation techniques is offered in a professional venue where the camaraderie and networking benefits are what you make of them. Several of our members have expressed their reasons for associating with FEWA:

“People are afraid they aren't good enough. It took me being at a FEWA Chicago chapter meeting and being told; *You are ready*. I haven't looked back since.”

*-Susan Maccoy, Chicago Chapter*

“FEWA has supported my professional development as well as the development of my practice. The opportunity to interface with other expert witnesses and share information is most valuable, and I've received several referrals for assignments through FEWA members. I've appreciated the wisdom and creativity that takes place in the discussions at FEWA meetings”

*-Brad Taft, Arizona Chapter*

Most Members of FEWA have already achieved expert status in their profession and have a desire to associate themselves with experts from other professions to hone their testifying skills. One of our ex-presidents once said he liked FEWA since he could discuss testimony tactics with friends who were not forensic engineers such as himself, but nonetheless had similar challenges.

**I'm worried I do not have the required experience, and trial or deposition testimony to qualify as a member. What can I do to gain the necessary experience before I join?**

FEWA offers Associate memberships for those who do not meet the minimum testimony requirement (three testimonies) and sworn depositions to be counted as testimony. We encourage Associate members to join and gain experience and knowledge with FEWA to eventually become Professional members.

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