

David T. Sweeney

Expert Witness & Consultant



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Professional Profile

34-year veteran police leader with a mission to improve best practices in policing by offering expert witness and police consultation services for both plaintiff and defense.

Core Skills

- Use of Force
- Crowd Control
- Pursuits
- Human Resources
- Training
- De-Escalation
- Legal Standards
- SWAT
- EEO
- Less Lethal

Career Summary

Sep 2017 - Present DT Sweeney Consulting, LLC, Seattle, WA Expert Witness

Outline

Expert witness/consultant on policing issues including pursuits, training, SWAT, use of force, early intervention, liability, complaints, EEO, human resources, performance reviews, etc. I have assisted attorneys 41 different times which included 16 defense cases and 25 plaintiff cases. I have been deposed 8 times and testified once at trial. In my police career, I testified in trial approximately 100 times.

Key Responsibilities

- I assist attorneys with expert witness reports, consultation, evidence and case review and deposition/trial testimony.
- I enjoy using my expertise to assist both plaintiff's attorneys and defense attorneys.
- I provide a review of the facts, including both strengths and weaknesses of the case.

May 2022 - Present Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois Adjunct Faculty

Outline

Faculty, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. I teach a variety of police executive disciplines to police leaders from across the U.S. Topics include Training, Employee Relations, Leadership, Decision-making, Performance Appraisals, Media Relations, Public Speaking, etc.

Feb 2021 - Feb 2022 Oregon State University Police Department, Corvallis, Oregon
Lieutenant

Outline

2nd in command, overseeing sergeants, officers and public safety officers as we developed a brand-new police department to serve the students, faculty and staff at Oregon State University. I supervised and trained all employees in all areas of policing, force, procedures, etc. I helped build a sense of community between the university and their police department.

Feb 2005 - Feb 2022 King County ADR and Oregon Federal Executive Board, Seattle, WA and Corvallis, OR
Mediator

Outline

Trained mediator, specializing in conflict resolution in the workplace.

Key Responsibilities

- Mediator for workplace conflict, landlord/tenant issues, labor conflict and human resources complaints.
- Assisted employees with conflict resolution.
- Identify differences and similarities in power structure, race, sex and equality in the workplace in order to promote communication and cooperation.

Key Achievements

- Led employees in conflict resolution in order to heal relationships and increase work productivity.
- Provided a sounding board for employees and made outside referrals when appropriate.

Aug 2019 - Feb 2021 Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA
Watch Commander

Outline

Supervised 8 sergeants and 60 officers. I was responsible for all patrol activities of my personnel in the SPD North Precinct, a community of 235,000 people. I coordinated and directed staff during routine and emergency responses. I conducted use of force, collision, complaint and pursuit reviews for my staff.

Feb 2005 - Feb 2021 Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA
Training Cadre

Outline

I have trained thousands of SPD employees from all ranks in the following disciplines: Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Performance Reviews, Early Intervention for Police Officers and Supervisors, Supervision of Police Personnel, Tactical De-Escalation, Care Under Fire, Integrated Tactics, Use of Force, Active Shooter/Rapid-Intervention, Crisis Intervention, Post-Academy Training for New Officers, Taser Instructor, CPR, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, & Legal Standards for police.

Key Achievements

- I have trained and/or demonstrated training tactics to personnel from the Department of Justice as well as other local and federal police departments in Crisis Intervention, Tactical De-escalation and Use of Force.

May 2016 - Jul 2019 Seattle Police Department East Precinct, Seattle, WA
Force Investigations Lieutenant

Outline

Responsible for analysis of officer's use force during arrests. I gathered evidence from reports, statements, photos, recordings, and in-car video (ICV). I evaluated the officer's legal authority and lawful purpose when detaining suspects. I formed opinions on whether or not the officer made proper efforts at de-escalation prior to use of force.

Key Responsibilities

- Precinct Compliance Lieutenant, responsible for employee training attendance and records.
- I received specialized force review training approved by the U. S. Department of Justice.

May 2015 - Apr 2016 Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA **Operations Lieutenant**

Outline

Responsible for reviewing use of force, pursuits, collisions, and misconduct investigations. Supervised the Community Police Team (CPT) and the Anti-Crime Team (ACT). Served as Acting Captain, in charge of the precinct. Responded to unusual occurrences in the precinct.

Key Responsibilities

- Delivered both written and oral communication in SeaStat, SPD's community crime reduction through data-driven policing.
- Spoke to community members and groups about North Precinct police activities.
- Responsible for staffing the precinct's 3 patrol shifts.

Key Achievements

- Reduced precinct budget expenditures through reduction of overtime and identifying extraneous activity.
- Reduced crime through analysis of criminal activity trends and deployment of key personnel to precinct hot spots.

Jan 2015 - Apr 2016 Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA **Patrol Sergeant**

Outline

Responsible for squad's response to 911 emergency and routine calls (assault, robbery, theft, burglary, alarms, collisions, etc.).

Key Responsibilities

- Analyzed and reviewed use of force by officers in the field.
- Guided, directed, motivated and trained a patrol squad of 6 – 12 officers.

Aug 2010 - Jan 2014 Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA **SWAT Sergeant**

Outline

Responsible for tactical response to hostage situations, barricaded persons, high-risk search warrants, riot control, and other high-risk 911 calls.

Key Responsibilities

- Dignitary protection.
- Supervised 6-24 officers during full-team callouts to high profile incidents.
- Led a group of subject matter experts and published the SPD SWAT Manual.
- Created a tracking database for all SWAT callouts, training, and qualifications.
- Provided administrative response to public disclosure requests.

Jan 2005 - Jul 2010 Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA **Detective Sergeant - Human Resources**

Outline

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) investigator, Early Intervention Coordinator, Performance Review Coordinator.

Key Responsibilities

- Investigated complaints of misconduct, harassment, and/or hostile work environment based on race, creed, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, etc.
- Handled a high caseload, investigating with care and confidentiality.
- Advised the Chief and other high-ranking administration on investigations, key data, and recommendations on how to improve the workplace for employees.
- Attended 300 hours of training. Completed 60 EEO investigations.

- System administrator and analyst for On-Target Performance Tracking System.
- Trained department supervisors on proper methods of creating performance reviews for employees.

Key Achievements

- Trained all new employees and department supervisors in EEO law, issues, and on how to keep SPD a safe place for all employees to work.
- Implemented a brand new program within SPD designed to identify and assist officers potentially involved in at-risk behavior in their professional and/or personal life.
- Trained and advised department supervisors on performance reviews for 1600 employees of SPD.
- Created a performance review tracking system to keep SPD on track with all performance reviews.

May 2003 - Dec 2004 Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA **Detective Sergeant - Internal Affairs**

Outline

Internal Investigator responsible for handling complaints of misconduct made against police personnel.

Key Responsibilities

- Internal Investigations.
- Complaint intake.

Key Achievements

- Handled 80 internal investigations of some of the most complex and sensitive complaints within SPD.
- Prioritized competing work demands.
- Practiced confidentiality and thoroughness while interacting with a diverse group of citizens and employees.

Jun 2001 - Apr 2003 Seattle Police Department West Precinct, Seattle, WA **Patrol Sergeant**

Outline

Responsible for leading, motivating and training a group of patrol officers. We were responsible for 911 calls in the downtown precinct at nighttime.

Key Responsibilities

- Responsible for supervision and review for officer's use of force, arrests, reports, and other calls for service.
- Handled citizen complaints against officers.
- Responsible for downtown nightlife scene with numerous people and incidents on Friday and Saturday nights

Key Achievements

- Engaged with bar owners/operators in downtown Seattle to develop the precinct violence reduction plan.

Jun 1987 - Apr 2001 Seattle Police Department, Seattle **Police Officer**

Outline

Police Officer, responsible for a variety of law enforcement activities within the City of Seattle.

Key Responsibilities

- Special Deployment Officer: responsible for large scale staffing plans for SPD (Y2K, WTO, Parades, Sporting events, etc).
- Movie Officer: Assisted with police involvement for movie, TV and commercials filmed in Seattle, including permits and hiring officers.
- DUI Officer: 500 DUI arrests, thousands of traffic stops, drinking lab, numerous reports and courtroom testimony.

- Field Training Officer (FTO): Guided, directed and trained new officers on becoming an effective police officer.
- Patrol Officer: Handled 911 calls for service, felony and misdemeanor investigations, collisions, mental health issues, detected and deterred criminal activity.
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT): Well-trained within SPD to respond to community members with mental health issues, suicidal ideation, drug dependency, etc.

Key Achievements

- Designed and participated in an SPD drinking lab in order to test and evaluate people under the influence of alcohol.
- MADD Officer of the Year, 1998.
- Numerous commendations and citizen thank-you reports.
- Took on additional responsibilities as an FTO for officers in need of specific competence training.
- Regular presenter to the community on patrol enforcement for criminal hot spots, drug houses, etc.

Aug 1983 - May 1987 Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA Security Officer

Outline

Lead supervisor, responsible for detecting and deterring criminal activity on campus in order to keep students, faculty and staff safe. Conducted safety and security assessments for university buildings.

Education

- **Master of Public Policy** | Oregon State University
- **Bachelor of Arts** | University of Washington
- **Associate in Arts/Sciences** | Shoreline Community College
- **Certificate, School of Police Staff and Command** | Northwestern University

Additional

Publications

- The Need for Police De-Escalation. The Defense News, published by Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association, Fall 2021.
- The Effects of Restrictive Police Pursuit Policies in Washington State. Published by Oregon State University, EMPP Defense - 2023.

Expert Witness Cases: 21 defense cases and 37 plaintiff cases.

1. 10/2017: Deposition-Defendant.

Skyler Morrison v. Seattle School District, NO. 18-2-00464-1 SEA.
WA State Court of Appeals.

2. 11/2017: Arbitration – Defendant.

Zachary Smalls v. USAA, 003254247-040, Arbitration.

3. 11/2017: Case Review – Defendant.

Estate of Jessica Ortega v. Pierce County, 17-2-11836-8.
Superior Court for the State of WA, in and for the county of Pierce.

4. 11/2020: Case Review – Plaintiff.

Ghodsee v. City of Kent, 20-2-09383-1.
SEA Superior Court for the State of WA, in and for the county of King.

5. 3/2021: Case Review – Defendant.

Steven Morse v. Oregon Patrol Service, 19CV35949.
Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for County of Multnomah.

6. 4/2021: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Estate of Kenneth Woody v. Big Horn County, 2016 MT-180.
Supreme Court for the State of Montana.

7. 7/2021: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Estate of Delafuente v. City of Nampa, CV14-20-01023.
Idaho District Court, 3rd District.

8. 8/2021: Written Declaration – Plaintiff.
Alexsey Predybaylo v. Sacramento County, 2:19-CV-01243-MCE-CKD.
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California.

9. 8/2021: Case Review – Plaintiff.
Hempel v. City of Grass Valley.

10. 10/2021: Written Declaration – Plaintiff.
Estate of Gabriel Strickland v. Nevada County.
2:21-CV-000175-MCE-AC, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California.

11. 12/2021: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Richmond v. Spokane County, 2:21-CV-00129-SMJ.
U.S. District Court Eastern District of WA.

12. 1/2022: Written Declaration – Plaintiff.
Estate of Nicholas Rapp v. King County, 3:21-CV-05800.
U.S. District Court, Western District of WA at Tacoma.

13. 4/2022: Case Review – Plaintiff.
Sanchez V. City of Eugene, 6:21-cv-00142-MC.
U.S. District Court, State of Oregon Eugene Division.

14. 4/2022: Case Review – Plaintiff.
Ramirez v. City of Chandler.
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

15. 4/2022: Case Review – Plaintiff.
Hartman v. State of Arizona.

16. 5/2022: Deposition – Plaintiff.
O'Brien v. City of Chicago, 20-CV-2260.
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.

17. 7/2022: Expert Report – Defendant.
Thompson v. City of Fairbanks, 4FA-21-02496 C.
Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Fourth Judicial District at Fairbanks.

18. 7/2022: Expert Report – Plaintiff.
Perkins v. City of Des Moines, 4:21-cv-00248-RGE-HCA.
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, Central Division.

19. 7/2022: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Irving v. City of Raleigh, 5:22:V-068-BO.
U.S. District Court for Eastern District of North Carolina.

20. 8/2022: Expert Report – Plaintiff.
Reid v. West Virginia State Police, #2:21-cv-00647.
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia at Charleston.

21. 9/2022: Case Review – Plaintiff.

Estate of Hennefer v. Yuba County.

22. 10/2022: Expert Report – Defendant.
Payne v. City of Tukwila, 22-2-06475-7 KNT.
Superior Court of the State of WA in the County of King.

23. 12/2022: Trial Testimony – Plaintiff.
Estate of Delafuente v. City of Nampa, CV14-20-01023.
Idaho District Court, 3rd District.

24. 1/2023: Case Review – Defendant.
State of Idaho v. George Dixon, 2022-216528.
Idaho Superior Court.

25. 1/2023: Case Review – Defendant.
Estate of Killsnight v. U.S., 4:22-cv-00018-BMM-JTJ.
U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Great Falls Division.

26. 2/2023: Preliminary Expert Report – Defendant.
Estate of Justin Schaffer v. Thurston County. Tort claim against Thurston County.

27. 3/2023: Expert Report – Defendant.
Yamindi and Gordon v. Cameron Osmer and WSP. 2:22-cv-00961-LK Matter #10956640.
US District Court for the Western District of WA.

28. 4/2023: Expert Opinion – Plaintiff.
Estate of Jones v. Franklin Co., et al., 4:22-cv-05138-SAB.
U.S. District Court Eastern District of WA.

29. 8/2023: Preliminary Review – Plaintiff.
Rebekah Fitzgerald v. Yellowstone Co., DV 56-2023-0011.
Montana 13th District Court, Yellowstone County.

30. 9/2023: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Hartmann v. State of Arizona, CV2022-010880.
Arizona Superior Court, County of Maricopa.

31. 10/2023: Expert Report – Defendant.
Henry v. City of Tacoma.
3:22-CV-05523-LK, U.S. District Court, Western District of WA.

32. 11/2023: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
Estate of Manzanares v. 3 Denver PD Officers, 2023-CV-31683.
District Court, City and County of Denver, State of CO.

33. 11/2023: Expert Review – Defendant.
State of Nevada v. Robert Telles, C-22-368935-1 Dept. XII.
District Court Clark County, Nevada.

34. 12/2023: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
Estate of Su v. City of Seattle.

35. 12/2023: Expert Review – Defendant.
Stallone v. Roberts, Whidbey Animals Improvement, 23-2-00285-1.
Superior Court State of WA, Island County.

36. 1/2024: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
Foss v. Alspach, et al., 2:22-CV-01728-JHC.
U.S. District Court, Western District of WA.

37. 12/2024, Expert Report – Defendant.
Velasco-Ortega v. Okanogan County, 4:22-cv-05138-SAB.

U.S. District Court Eastern District of WA.

38. 1/2024, Expert Report – Defendant.
Estate of Dante Jones v. Franklin Co., 4:22-cv-5138-JAG.
U.S. District Court Eastern District of WA.

39. 3/2024: Expert Report – Plaintiff.
Estate of Jesse Gardner v. Bullhead City, 3:2023cv08078.
U.S. District Court in and for the District of Arizona.

40. 4/2024: Expert Report – Plaintiff.
Estate of Arlin Bordeaux v. U.S. of America, 1:23-cv-00047-SPW.
U.S. District Court for the District of Montana Billings Division.

41. 4/2024: Expert Review – Defendant.
Burney v. Snohomish County, et al., 24-2-05395-6 KNT.
In the Superior Court of WA, For the County of King.

42. 5/2024: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
McKinzie Rees v. City of Edgewater, 1-23-CV-01626-PAB-NRN.
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

43. 5/2024: Expert Report – Defendant.
Anderson v. City of Soldotna, AK.3:23-cv-000119SLG.
In the United States District Court for the District of Alaska at Anchorage.

44. 6/2024: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
Todd v. United States of America. 1:23-ccv-00047-SPW.
U.S. District Court for the District of Montana Billings Division.

45. 8/2024: Expert Review – Plaintiff.
Ortiz v. Sioux City, IA.

46. 1/2024: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Hennefer v. Yuba County, CA. 2:22- cv- 000389-TLN-CSK. U.S. District Court
for the Eastern District of California.

47. 11/2024: Expert Witness Report – Defendant.
Jeremy Jones v. Safariland. 4: 23- cv - 05154-JAG.
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington at Richland.

48. 1/2025: Expert Witness Report – Plaintiff.
Kennedy v. Acree, et al. 5:21-cv-00134-GNS-LLK.
U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky Paducah Division.

49. 3/2025: Expert Witness Report – Plaintiff
Moore v. Patterson, et al. 1:24 -cv-01600
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Northern District

50. 3/2025: Expert Witness Report – Defendant
Callandret v. Jackson Investors, et al. 23-2-21189-8 SEA
Superior Court for the State of Washington, in and for King County

51. 3/2025: Expert Witness Review – Plaintiff
Estate of Berryman v. Cowlitz County, WA

52. 3/2025: Expert Witness Report – Plaintiff. Estate of Erica Horne v. King
County, WA. 24-2-16341-7 KNT. In the Superior Court for the State of Washington
in and for the County of King.

53. 4/2025 Expert Witness Review - Defense. Comas v. Valley Medical.

54. 4/2025: Expert Witness Review – Plaintiff. Beatz v. City of Escondido, et al.,
37-2023-00004381- CA-PA-CTL
Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego

55. 4/2025: Expert Witness Rebuttal – Plaintiff.
Estate of Jess Gardner v. Bullhead City, et al. 3:23-cv-08078-GMS-CDB.
In the United States District Court for the District of Arizona

56. 5/2025: Deposition – Plaintiff.
Kennedy v. Acree, et al. 5:21-cv-00134-GNS-LLK
In the United States District Court for Western District of Kentucky, Paducah Division

57. 6/2025: Expert Report - Defendant.
Gina Palombi; Joseph Palombi v. City of Orting. 23-2-10521-0
In the Superior Court for the State of Washington in and for the County of Pierce

58. 8/2025: Expert Report - Plaintiff.
Estate of Laible v. Cincinnati 2:21-cv-00102
In the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky at Covington

Court History: I have testified in eleven depositions and once at trial.

Woody v. Big Horn County, MT – 2021. This was a police pursuit case that ended in a fatality. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Delafuente vs. City of Nampa, ID – 2021. This was a police pursuit case that ended in two fatalities. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Richmond v. Spokane County – 2022. This was a human resources EEO case which ended in separation of service. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

O'Brien v. City of Chicago – 2022. This was an excessive force case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Irving v. City of Raleigh – 2022. This was a police misconduct case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Delafuente vs. City of Nampa, ID – 2022. I testified in court for plaintiff regarding this police pursuit case.

Hartman v. State of Arizona – 2023. This was a pursuit case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Hennefer v. Yuba County - 2024. This was a police procedures case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Jacquelyn Moore v. Jesse Patterson - 2025. This was a police pursuit case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Kennedy v.. Acree et al. - 2025. This was a use of force case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Estate of Jesse Gardner v. Bullhead City - 2025. This was a police procedures case. I was hired by plaintiff's counsel and testified in a deposition.

Gina and Joseph Palombi v. Orting - 2025. This was a human resources case. I was hired by defense counsel and testified in a deposition.

Media Consultations: Interviews, reviews, commentary, expertise:

1/2025: Estelle Atkinson, Las Vegas Review-Journal. Discussion about Tasers and other less lethal weapons.

3/2025: Ryan J. Foley, Associated Press. Discussion about Tasers and use of force, which led to a death of a subject being taken into custody.

8/2024: Jeff Domenick, WTAE Pittsburgh. Review of police officer's use of a police vehicle against a fleeing suspect.

6/2022: Susan Samples, WOOD TV/ABC 4 Michigan. Discussion about accidental discharges of firearms.

3/2022: Dan Morse, Washington Post. Review of police pursuit practices.

1/2022: Tania Sims, Live Now Fox. Discussion about violence and threats directed at the police as a result of recent shootings.

2/2022: Frank Mitchell, Close Up Radio. Discussion of police practices.

2/2024: Katie McDowell, KCPQ. Review of an officer involved shooting.

6/2021: Angelica Relente, Tacoma News Tribune. Discussion about police jurisdictions within Washington State.