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# MARK WITHROW

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[The Forensic Expert Witness Association - Mark Withrow](#)  
[Alignable - Mark Withrow-Sensei](#)  
[LinkedIn - Mark Withrow](#)



## Summary

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Mark has over 30 years of combined experience and leadership in law enforcement and security management. His skill set includes Premises Liability, Crime Foreseeability, Use of Force & Over-escalation, Security Standards & Best Practices, Guard Performance/Negligence, Workplace Violence Intervention, Risk Mitigation and Crime Prevention.

Mark is experienced in complex trial preparation, report writing, and legal research. He is a qualified Expert in Alameda and San Joaquin counties and has exceptional case management and communication skills. He is a detail-oriented critical and analytical thinker who understands the discovery process and stages of litigation. He is a certified Expert Witness and Subject Matter Expert who has attained the Certified Forensic Litigation Consultant (CFLC) designation. He is the current Regional Vice President and professional consulting member of FEWA (Forensic Expert Witness Association) and is a member of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association.

## Highlights

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Personal Injury/Wrongful Death  
Crime Foreseeability  
Crime Scene Analysis  
Criminal Defense

Best Practices-Standards of Care  
Premises Liability  
Security Negligence  
Safety-Vulnerability Assessments

## Experience

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### Founder – Director

December 2014 – Present

Golden State Security Consulting--Northern CA

- Certified Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert for deposition and courtroom testimony
- Assist attorneys with document review, discovery analysis, standards of care and best practices
- Perform safety/security vulnerability assessments for San Francisco Bay Area corporations
- Develop, review and enhance Emergency Action Plans and safety standards and practices
- Recommend threat mitigation measures/solutions to executive management
- Present workplace violence intervention and situational awareness workshops to executives, senior management, and HR staff

### Founder – Director

March 1992 – Present

California Self-Defense Consultants--Northern CA

- Subject Matter Expert: Personal Safety/Street Smart Self-Defense/Situational Awareness
- Provide Managing Aggressive Behavior/Verbal Diffusing Skills to HR, corporate directors and staff
- Safety-Security Risk Advisor to San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley corporations
- Facilitate and present Safety Awareness, Victimization, and Corporate Travel Best Practice workshops

**Director of Operations**

March 2016 – September 2023

Jonin Intelligence &amp; Protective Services, Inc.--Elk Grove, CA

- Significantly reduced risks by conducting corporate vulnerability assessments, presenting findings to senior management, and implementing process improvements
- Oversight of multiple locations. Assignments include emergency preparedness, threat analysis, disaster management, and critical incident training
- Introduced best practice standards for disaster readiness, access control technology upgrades, and strategic compliance protocol that produced operational excellence

**Safety-Security Consultant**

May 2013 – April 2023

HighCom Security Services, Inc.--Oakland, Silicon Valley, Marin, San Francisco

- Develop and initiate business continuity and workplace violence prevention policies
- Update and manage Emergency Action Plans and critical incident response procedures
- Research and provide safety/security solutions to the specific needs of Bay Area clientele
- Advocate and interface with local law enforcement and EMS personnel

**EP Lead Protection Agent**

January 2012 – May 2013

Unlimited Security Specialists--Portola Valley, CA (*short-term engagement*)

- Site Manager for multi-member family close protection assignment
- Conducted secure transportation operations for corporate CEO and family members
- Performed advance and reconnaissance for projected/actual vehicle routes and destinations
- Researched and composed multiple estate vulnerability assessments for corporate executives
- Assisted in planning and advising residential Emergency Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place objectives

**DSS Officer, Bureau of Diplomatic Security – Dignitary Protection Branch**

July 2006 – March 2011

U.S. Department of State--San Francisco, CA

- Responsible for the physical protection and access control of DOS facilities, as per 22 USC 4804, including the safeguarding of classified material, government communications, and information systems
- Responded to civil disturbances, suspected or actual criminal violations, security alerts, and other critical situations
- Trained in counterterrorism, explosive awareness investigations, property crimes, and document fraud
- Provided foreign and domestic dignitary protection, as needed
- Awarded a certificate of appreciation from Maura Harty, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Consular Affairs
- TS/SCI/Secret security clearances

**Detail Leader, Corporate Risk – Western Region**

March 2000 – October 2006

Kroll Associates, Inc.--San Francisco, CA

- Managed and conducted workplace violence intervention, risk management, and asset protection assignments throughout the San Francisco Bay Area
- Directed a team of officers on corporate downsizing assignments, sub-rosa surveillance, and hostile work terminations
- Major Event Security Consultant: RSA Conference, Oracle Open World, and Dreamforce
- First responder at the bombings of Chiron Corporation and UC Santa Cruz domestic terrorism incidents

**Instructor and Security Consultant, Corporate Program Development**

April 1995 – March 2000

West Coast Detective Academy--Oakland, CA

- Developed a comprehensive course curriculum and training syllabus for enrolled students
- Ensured compliance with ACCSC accreditation standards and practices
- Taught investigative courses to academy attendees: Public Records Research & Business Intelligence strategies

**Manager, Asset Investigations**

September 1988 – April 1995

Law Office of Eskanos &amp; Adler, APC--Oakland, CA

- Managed 16 employees assigned to the skip trace, fraud, and auditing departments
- Presented evidence collection and investigation results to attorney staff for review
- Developed policies and training procedures for the asset management legal department teams

**Classified Destruction Officer**

May 1986 – August 1988

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)—San Francisco Bay Area (short-term engagement)

- Responsible for the collection, transport and destruction of classified material from DOE secure sites
- Reviewed and edited security manuals and security post orders for restricted access areas
- Received specialized training in counterterrorism response tactics

**Senior Officer Specialist**

January 1981 - April 1986

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons

- Academy graduate of FLETC, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- Field Training Officer (FTO) and Defensive Tactics Instructor (DTI)
- Served on tactical response and special enforcement teams
- Chase transport officer during WITSEC movements
- Trained in crime scene preservation, evidence collection, and bloodstain pattern analysis
- Awarded four letters of commendation during career tour of duty

**Formal Education**

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- University of California at Davis – B.A. Psychology with a minor in Rhetoric
- Post-academic studies have focused on subject matter which includes: Criminology, Penology, Victimization and Exploitation, Deviant Behavior, Predator-Prey Psychology, Criminal Recidivism, Fight or Flight Response, and Irritability/Alcohol-related Aggression

## Licenses & Certifications

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- Certified Forensic Consultant (CFC)
- Certified Medical Investigator (CMI)
- Certified Forensic Litigation Consultant (CFLC)
- Certified Homeland Protection Professional (CHPP), National Sheriffs' Association
- FEMA ICS 100-800, Emergency Management Institute Professional Development Series
- Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC), Department of Homeland Security
- Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW); permit issued by State of California, Alameda County Sheriff
- Bureau of Security and Investigative Services – exposed firearm permit and guard card
- Bureau of Security and Investigative Services – Baton: expandable, straight, and side handle (PR-24)
- Bureau of Security and Investigative Services – MACE and OC aerosol
- Bureau of Security and Investigative Services – TASER and electronic control device (stun gun)
- Nevada Search and Rescue (SAR), Basic Tracker, Washoe County
- Instructor and Certified Referee, Shotokan Karate International – U.S. Federation
- Certified Referee and Judge, World Union of Karate Organizations (WUKO)

## Professional Publications/Authorships

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- A Day with the General, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 5, no. 3
- America's Most Wanted: Staying on Track., *The Forensic Examiner*, vol. 17, no. 1
- Avoiding a Recipe for Disaster: 2006 Golden Guardian, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 5, no. 2
- The Best of the Best: Urban Shield 2009, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 8, no. 1
- Setting the Standard; California's 2008 Golden Guardian, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 7, no. 1
- Committed to Security: California's 2010 Golden Guardian, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 8, no. 4
- True Grit: A Special Edition Interview with a Living Legend, *The Forensic Examiner*, vol. 20, no. 1
- Weathering the Storm: DHS Hosts Cyber Storm III, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 9, no. 1
- Bound by Duty: Our Urban Shield Heroes Shine, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 9, no. 4
- Rough & Ready: Best in the West 2012 S.W.A.T. Competition, *Inside Homeland Security*, vol. 11, no. 1

## Professional & Corporate Affiliations

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- Eagle Scout Alumni Organization, Golden Gate Area Council
- Fellow and Life Member, American Association of Integrative Medicine (AAIM)
- Fellow and Life Member, American Board for Certification in Homeland Security (ABCHS)
- Fellow and Life Member, American College of Forensic Examiners Institute (ACFEI)
- Member, American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS International)
- Member, American Society of Criminology (ASC)
- Member, American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
- Member, Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP Worldwide)
- Member, California Crime Prevention Officers Association (CCPOA)
- Professional Member and Regional Vice President, Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA)
- Member, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
- Member, National Sheriffs' Association
- Member, San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (SFTLA)

## Speaking & Public Appearance History (prior 4 years)

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|--------|---------------------------|---|
| • 2024 | Global Risk Solutions     | Self-Defense Pressure Point Theory                |
| • 2024 | K9 X Factor               | Verbal Defusing Skills for Security Officers      |
| • 2024 | Jonin, Inc.               | Situational Awareness & Officer Safety            |
| • 2023 | San Francisco SPCA        | Managing Aggressive Behavior                      |
| • 2023 | K9 X Factor               | Situational Awareness & Personal Safety           |
| • 2023 | Jonin, Inc.               | Self-Defense Pressure Point Theory                |
| • 2023 | Global Risk Solutions     | Situational Awareness & Officer Safety            |
| • 2022 | FEWA                      | National Conference Introductions                 |
| • 2022 | ProVisors                 | Travel Safety Best Practices                      |
| • 2022 | Overwatch Protection      | Mastering Corporate Vulnerability Assessments     |
| • 2022 | K9 X Factor               | Street Smart Self-Defense                         |
| • 2021 | Washoe Native TANF        | Personal Safety: How to be Street Wise            |
| • 2021 | Washoe Native TANF        | The Street Encounter: Staying Safe and Alert      |
| • 2021 | Washoe Native TANF        | Your Emergency Family 'GO KIT'                    |
| • 2021 | Washoe Native TANF        | Child Safety Awareness                            |
| • 2021 | HighCom Security Services | Fire Safety Training & Extinguisher Use           |
| • 2021 | San Francisco FHL Bank    | High-Rise Vulnerability Assessment Considerations |

## Continuing Education & Training (prior 3 years)



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| • More Effective Courtroom Testimony                                  | Forensic Expert Witness Association            |
| • Security Management: Facilities Security By Design                  | ASIS International                             |
| • Future Safety Leaders Programming                                   | American Society of Safety Professionals       |
| • National Cybersecurity Alliance                                     |  |
| • Cross-Examination of Experts, From the Trial Lawyers Perspective    | National Sheriffs Association                  |
| • NTAC Study: Mass Attacks in Public Spaces                           | Forensic Expert Witness Association            |
| • Using the Trap-18 to Identify an Incel Lone-Actor Terrorist         | Association of Threat Assessment Professionals |
| • Active Shooter Survival Training                                    | Association of Threat Assessment Professionals |
| • Top 10 Cal-OSHA Safety Violations                                   | ALIVE -Active Human Threat Program             |
| • Discovery, Ethics and the Influence of Retaining Counsel            | SEAK Expert Witness Training                   |
| • How to Best Describe Your Document Review, Research & Investigation | SEAK Expert Witness Training                   |
| • Task Force/Strike Team Leader                                       | E/L-984 FEMA Emergency Management Institute    |
| • OSHA Most Commonly Cited Covid-19 Standards                         |  |
| • Intermediate Emergency Ops Center Functions                         | OSHA Compliance Training                       |
|   | E/L/G-2300 FEMA Emergency Mng't Institute      |

## Honors & Awards

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- Eagle Scout and National Honor Society: Troop 46, Ukiah, CA / NESA Life Member
- Governor's Commendation
- Chamber of Commerce Community Development Award
- Alameda County Community Hero Award
- Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau Member of the Year
- Lions Club International Citizen of the Year
- American Red Cross Hero Award
- Top Achiever Award, Certification for Homeland Security, CHS-V
- Nine Congressional letters for exemplary community service, dba Shotokan Karate-Do
- Letter of Endorsement, Child Quest International
- Alignable Local Business Person of the Year, 2020-2025
- Alignable **Top 25 National** Business Mentors of 2021
- Billy Mitchell Award, Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary
- Search & Rescue Civil Air Patrol, Mendocino Composite Squadron 6
- BEST Martial Arts Instruction by Bay Area News Group

## Volunteer Experience & Community Outreach

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- 9/2022 -- present      Martin C. Kauffman 100 Club of Alameda County
- 2/2019 -- present      Historical Preservation Foundation, Native Sons of the Golden West
- 4/2019 -- present      Regional Vice President, Forensic Expert Witness Association (FEWA)
- 3/2012 -- present      Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association (PCFMA)
- 9/2017 -- present      Boy Scouts of America, Merit Badge Counselor -- Crime Prevention
- 9/2017 -- present      Boy Scouts of America, Las Aguilas de Diablo Eagle Scouts
- 4/2012 -- present      Boy Scouts of America, Advisory Committee -- Golden Gate Area Council
- 6/2009 -- 4/2019      California Department of Parks and Recreation
- 11/2006 -- 2/2023      Yosemite Conservancy
- 11/2004 -- 9/2015      Lions Club International
- 8/2012 - 8/2021      CA Golden Guardian, full-scale Disaster Preparedness for First Responder agencies

## Expert Witness Experience (partial listing)

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- David Smith, et al. v First Alarm Security and Patrol, Inc. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Ricardo Gutierrez v Cruisers Saloon, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Sardinha v Hollywood and Ivar, LLC (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Anthony Zuniga v Pacifica Restaurant Group, et al. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Robinson v Allied Universal Security Services, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Banks v Wilhite and Silver Lakes Association (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- People v Jose Juan Amaral (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Daniel Mendez v BART (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- People v Terri McCoy (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Petra Lehecka, et al. v J Par, Inc. dba Blue Agave Nightclub (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Chapa v Barrel Proof, Inc., dba Paper Plane, et al. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Nora Edgar v Crimetek Security; Fred Betshahbaz (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Hasbini, et al. v Vespertine, Inc; CMS Security, Inc. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Molyneaux v Heat Ultra Lounge (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Kidane, et al. v DT Venture LP, et al. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- C Hong v CR Villa Hermosa Communities, LLC, et al. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Kelly Dooley v Essex (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- William Clay v Motel 6 (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Muchnick, Irvin v AHS (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Brown v Stor-A-Lot, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Beverly Johnson, et al. v 7-Eleven, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- C Robinson v Khartoum, Inc. (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Aguilar v Harvey's Beverage Service, Inc. dba Harvey's Sports Bar (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Bracke et al. v Casa Grande Mobile Home Estates, LLC (Retained by Defendant's counsel)
- Gonzales v Sandeno, et al., Kanit & Kate, Inc. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Beverly Johnson v 7-Eleven, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Sophie Yip v Greentree, et al. (Retained by Plaintiff's counsel)
- Oh v Century Hill (Retained Defendant's counsel)

**ATTORNEYS:** *Mr. Withrow does not authorize the use of his name or this document in Expert Disclosure until such time that a mutually executed Expert Agreement and Case Deposit has been received.*