

David T. Sweeney

Police 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 attorneys.

Core Skills

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

Career Summary

2017 - Present

**DT Sweeney Consulting, LLC, Seattle, WA
Expert Witness & Consultant**

Position Summary

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.

2022 - Present

**Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Adjunct Faculty**

Position Summary

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.

2021 - 2022

**Oregon State University Police Department, Corvallis, Oregon
Lieutenant**

Position Summary

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.

2005 - 2022

**King County ADR and Oregon Federal Executive Board, Seattle,
WA and Corvallis, OR
Mediator**

Position Summary

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.

2019 - 2021

**Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA
Watch Commander**

Position Summary

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.

2005 - 2021

**Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA
Training Cadre**

Position Summary

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.

2016 - 2019

**Seattle Police Department East Precinct, Seattle, WA
Force Investigations Lieutenant**

Position Summary

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.

2015 - 2016

Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA Operations Lieutenant

Position Summary

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.

2014 - 2015

Seattle Police Department North Precinct, Seattle, WA Patrol Sergeant

Position Summary

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.

2010 - 2014

Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA SWAT Sergeant

Position Summary

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.

2005 - 2010

Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA Detective Sergeant - Human Resources

Position Summary

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.

2003 - 2005

**Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA
Detective Sergeant - Internal Affairs**

Position Summary

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

Key Responsibilities

- Internal Investigations.
- Complaint intake.

Key Achievements

- Handled 60 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.

2001 - 2003

**Seattle Police Department West Precinct, Seattle, WA
Patrol Sergeant**

Position Summary

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.

1987 - 2001

**Seattle Police Department, Seattle
Police Officer**

Position Summary

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 filming permits and hiring/supervising 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 to test and evaluate people under the influence of alcohol.
- MADD Officer of the Year, 1998.
- Numerous commendations and citizen appreciation 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.

1983 – 1987

Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA

Security Officer

Position Summary

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, 2023
- **Bachelor of Arts** | Law, Societies & Justice, University of Washington, 2004
- **Associate in Arts/Sciences** | Shoreline Community College, 2002
- **Graduate, School of Police Staff and Command** | Northwestern University, 2021

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

Expert Witness Cases: 16 defense cases and 25 plaintiff cases. I have testified in eight depositions and once at trial.

Expert Witness History:

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.