

# 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: 18 defense cases and 29 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.
42. 4/2024: Expert Report – Plaintiff. McKinzie Rees v. City of Edgewater,  
CO , 1:23-cv -01626-PAB-NRN. In the United States 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. 11/2024: 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.