

## Professional Associations of Expert Witnesses

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Professionals who possess specialized knowledge relevant to a legal proceeding are frequently asked to serve as expert witnesses. In the U.S., individuals providing expert testimony often elect to belong to a professional organization related to their particular discipline. Such associations recognize the importance of promoting expert services and may devote a committee, or perhaps a membership section, to forensics and expert witnessing. In contrast to this arrangement in the U.S., expert witnesses in the U.K. frequently belong to an organization devoted to the provision of expert witness services. At least four organizations in the UK exclusively serve the interests of expert witnesses and attorneys. The four are: the Academy of Experts, the Chamber of Experts, the Expert Witness Institute, and the Society of Expert Witnesses. The UK expert might also choose to become a member of one or more of these entities besides belonging to a professional organization representing one's particular discipline. With the growth of expert witness services in the U.S., thought should be given to emulating the UK model and establishing organizations devoted solely to the needs of experts. Newly formed associations could supplement these groups and focus exclusively on serving the interests of experts representing a variety of disciplines.

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Forensic accountants, physicians, dentists, nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers, engineers, and others possessing specialized knowledge are frequently called upon to serve as expert witnesses. Many individuals providing expert testimony in the U.S. elect to belong to a professional organization related to their particular field. For example, accountants might belong to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and forensic experts may elect to be members of the American College of Forensic Examiners. Those with fraud expertise might join the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and those with valuation expertise may be members of the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts. Associations such as these, recognizing the importance of promoting a subspecialty encompassing expert services, often devote a committee, or perhaps a membership section, to forensics and expert witnessing.