



## Why Consulting?

Why should an attorney consider using a construction consultant as an expert? Because getting an unbiased opinion regarding structural concerns can be key to representing clients involved in construction related disputes.

Expert witnesses bring varied expertise to the table. Seeing the “big picture” as well as the small details can be crucial. Knowing, understanding and explaining how construction situations occur can be valuable in portraying your client’s side of the picture.

Many times, architects, engineers and/or contractors will be referred to provide their opinions for construction related issues. The fact of the matter, however, is that even licensed professional’s opinions and recommendations will often differ.

With this potential for discrepancy in mind, a construction consultant who is highly qualified and experienced, can address various issues and be extremely valuable in making sense out of what others are saying.

Real examples of how opinions can vary are as follows:

A local homeowner's residence was experiencing a settlement issue. Three people gave their opinions. An engineer said to put deep concrete piers in the center of the home directly under where an exposed roof beam was experiencing visual movement. One contractor said to remove and replace the entire foundation. Another contractor said to only underpin a portion of the existing foundation.

What did I find? The center of the home was the highest elevation point and the visual movement was a result of the rear of the home settling. The fix - do as the last contractor said and only underpin a portion of the existing foundation.

By bringing in a construction consultant, the homeowner was able to:

- 1) Make sense of their current situation.
- 2) Discuss various approaches to remediate the issues.
- 3) Understand the expectations of choices and rough costs to do so.

By better understanding their choices, the homeowner could now make an informed decision on how to proceed with their best interest in mind.

Likewise, for attorneys representing their clients, a little education and understanding of the structural concerns can help them not only decide if they want to take the case but also obtain an outside opinion on how to address the case to the benefit of their client they represent.

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