



Importance of Expert Litigation Support

Unfortunately, not all construction projects result in buildings that perform according to the owner's expectations. Because of the complexity and countless variables in materials and labor that are involved in a typical construction project, it's possible that something may go wrong. Proper diagnosis of the problem after the fact, and developing a reasonable resolution, is advantageous to everyone involved. As a result, litigation support is becoming an increasingly important segment of the services offered by GCI.

Common Obstacles

One of the most difficult aspects in litigation support cases involves overcoming allegations from experts who have deemed certain building products as defective in design, manufacture, or installation, when in fact they haven't performed a complete analysis to determine the root causes of the issue. For example, one of the most common allegations we see at GCI is that water leakage enters a building. However, many different construction materials and laborers are involved in the construction of most buildings and the result is that all the materials need to work together in order to perform properly. Unfortunately, some experts support their claim by performing improper water tests, including testing at locations where leakage has never occurred before, which only serves to demonstrate that they can make a leak occur instead of determining why a leak occurs. In addition, we often see that the expert fails to perform the type of exploratory evaluation that's necessary to uncover the defect that allows the leakage, and to determine which materials or processes are responsible. Instead they make an allegation that is too often based on speculation. Such an investigation is not particularly helpful, making resolution of the problem more difficult because of the many different parties involved, and as a result, the owner still fails to achieve their original expectation of a building that performs as required.

The GCI Difference

GCI often becomes involved in litigation representation because of incomplete work by other expert firms that has resulted in unsubstantiated allegations. When these experts allege a defect, such as water leakage, without a thorough analysis of causation, GCI is called on to determine whether a particular party has responsibility.

At GCI we have a team of experienced litigation support experts with decades of experience in the building industry. Our goal in each of our projects is to determine if the party we are representing has any responsibility in the alleged defect. We look to answer the following questions:



- Who is responsible?
- Was the product manufactured incorrectly?
- Was there a design defect?

GCI has worked with a number of different parties including building owners, developers, architects, contractors, product manufacturers, subcontractors, etc. But no matter who is paying for our services, we consider the “truth” to ultimately be our client. This allows our team to be completely transparent, regardless of the outcome.

Litigation Support Workflow

Litigation support cases vary based on materials and the problems involved, but a typical workflow may include:

- Interviews with the owner or review of a complaint that cites an alleged defect.
- Review of other expert reports, if any, alleging defects.
- An initial visual inspection of the affected property to identify the reported problem locations and to determine if there is any validity to the claim.
- Field testing, inspections, and destructive testing to determine causation.
- Submitting written reports to the client with findings and recommendations.
- Testimony at mediation, deposition, and/or trial if necessary.

Construction Products That GCI Most Commonly Investigates

- Windows, doors and glazed curtain walls
- Sealants and waterproofing materials
- Wall cladding materials such as stucco, brick and siding
- Roofing
- Indoor air quality control

Clients That Utilize GCI's Litigation Support

- Building owners
- Architects
- Developers
- Building contractors
- Product manufacturers
- Product installers

If you are in need of litigation support, don't hesitate to contact the experienced team at GCI Consultants, LLC to ensure your interests are protected. For more information about our services don't hesitate to contact us today by phone at 561-689-0055 or email at info@gciconsultants.com.