

Professional CV and Fee Schedule with Testimony Case List

Steven S. Paul

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EXPERT PROFILE

I am an independent expert witness and vehicle litigation consultant with over 25 years of experience in the automotive and heavy-duty vehicle industries. I have provided expert inspections, mechanical failure analysis, diminished value reports, and courtroom testimony in over 500 lemon law, warranty, fraud, and valuation disputes across multiple jurisdictions, including Federal Court.

My work supports plaintiff and defense attorneys in cases involving vehicle condition, contract compliance, and repair quality. I bring extensive technical and diagnostic knowledge, detailed forensic documentation, and the ability to communicate clearly to courts, juries, and attorneys.

Core Areas of Expertise:

- Lemon Law & Warranty Disputes
- Dealer Fraud & Misrepresentation
- Mechanical / Engine / HD Truck Failures
- Lease Condition Disputes
- Vehicle Valuation & Diminished Value
- Appraisals of Classic, Exotic & Collector Vehicles
- Expert Reports, Depositions & Trial Testimony

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 – Present Founder & Expert Witness – SSP Vehicle Litigation Services

I specialize in vehicle litigation consulting and expert witness services, serving both plaintiff and defense attorneys.

- Provide detailed expert inspections, reports, and courtroom testimony
- Focused on HD truck condition disputes, engine failure, valuation, and lemon law claims
- Testify in civil, commercial, and Federal litigation involving vehicle appraisal and mechanical failure

- Deliver strategic consultation based on 25+ years of repair, inspection, and dealership experience

2009 – Present Principal & Senior Consultant – TDT Vehicle Inspection Services, Inc.

TDT is a mobile vehicle inspection company serving IL and MO.

- Conduct hundreds of inspections yearly on high-value, collector, and commercial vehicles
- Deliver unbiased appraisals, mechanical assessments, and litigation support reports
- Provide expert evaluations for warranty disputes, diminished value claims, and fraud cases

2014 – 2015 Tire Care & Maintenance Manager – Love's Travel Stops

- Managed HD truck service center operations, tire sales, and mechanical repairs
- Supervised preventive maintenance, suspension, driveline, and emergency breakdown repairs

2014 Level III Bus Mechanic – First Student Transportation

- Conducted PMs and mechanical repairs for school transportation fleets

2013 – 2014 Automotive & Diesel Technology Instructor – Vatterott College

- Instructed future techs in diagnostics, braking, steering, driveline, and engine systems
- Directed the full Automotive & Diesel Tech program

2005 – 2010 Mobile Vehicle Inspector – AutoVIN (Adesa Auto Auctions)

- Performed over 1,500 inspections with 0 dispute claims
- Supported eBay Motors and Escrow.com as pre-purchase inspection partner

2004 – 2005 Maintenance Manager / Warranty Admin – Beelman Truck Company

- Oversaw service operations across 14 commercial truck shop locations
- Increased maintenance efficiency by 30%

1997 – 2003 Vehicle Repair Technician – U.S. Armed Forces

- Completed three deployments (Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq)
- Diagnosed and repaired a full range of military light and heavy-duty vehicles
- Managed turbine engine readiness and led a 15-person repair team

1988 – 1997 Auto Body Technician & Builder – Family-Owned Body Shop

- Conducted full restorations, collision repairs, and custom stock car fabrication

SELECTED CASE EXPERIENCE

Commercial Lease Dispute – Federal Court, Louisiana (Defense)

Inspected 70+ semi-trucks for a fleet lease dispute. Supervised reinspections, documented improper handling, and contributed to a favorable settlement after reviewing 20,000+ pages and investing 150+ hours of analysis.

Dealer Fraud – Roush Mustang Misrepresentation – Missouri (Plaintiff)

Determined vehicle was rebadged and misrepresented as a Roush Stage III. Report supported summary judgment under Missouri Merchandising Practices Act.

Divorce Vehicle Dispute – Springfield, IL (Petitioner)

Inspected, appraised, and testified on a damaged vehicle returned during divorce. Provided full value analysis and expert opinion on condition and intent, contributing to a favorable ruling for the Petitioner.

TESTIMONY CASE LIST

Trial Testimony

- Wojtowicz v. Valvoline (MO, 2025)
- Derek Tracy v. Auto Plaza Breckenridge (MO, 2025)
- Kilgore v. Volo (IL, 2024)
- Nash v. Super Trooper Motors (WI, 2023)
- Perkins v. Perkins - 1967 Chevrolet Camaro Valuation (IL, 2021)
- Young v. Breckenridge Motors - BMW (MO, 2021)
- Acol v. Travers RV (MO, 2021)
- River Region Credit Union v. Fordyce (MO, 2019)
- Khalaf v. Dean Team of Kirkwood (MO, 2019)
- Crosby v. Auto Connection of Dexter, LLC (MO, 2019)
- Arnowitz v. Hyundai Motor America Corp (MO, 2019)
- Murray v. B-Link Auto Marine (MO, 2019)
- Ford v. DL Fuchs (MO, 2018)
- Ramirez v. Adrenaline Auto Sales (MO, 2018)
- Williams v. KIA Motor Company (MO, 2018)

- Baker v. Lou Fusz (MO, 2018)
- Miles v. Vogue Motor Company (MO, 2018)
- Kempen v. Glez Auto Repair, INC (MO, 2018)
- Floyd v. MAS Motors (MO, 2017)
- Howell v. Driven Auto Sales (MO, 2016)
- Sparling v. BBC Motors (MO, 2015)
- Clemons v. Nissan North America (IL, 2010)

Arbitration

- Fradin v. Naperville Autohaus (IL, 2025)
- Klein v. Pay or Stay Towing (IL, 2024)
- Belani v. Tesla (NJ, 2020)

COURT QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified as a mechanical, structural, and valuation expert in multiple states and courts:

- Federal Court – Louisiana
- American Arbitration Association
- United States Arbitration & Mediation
- Counties in IL, MO, NJ, PA, WI

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- ASE Master Certified – Automotive & HD Truck (2010–Present)
- 15-Hour USPAP Certified – American Society of Appraisers (2024)
- ASCAA Certified Vehicle Appraiser (2016)
- NRVIA Level II Certified RV Inspector (2018)
- I-CAR PL3 Structural Technician (2013)
- Associates Degree – Marketing, Southwestern Illinois College (2012)
- 40+ Certifications from ASE, ATG, EPA, Garage Gurus & Others (2019–2025)

MEMBERSHIPS & INDUSTRY ROLES

- Diesel Program Consultant – Ranken Technical College

- Auto Tech Program Consultant – Kaskaskia College
- Automotive Service Association (ASA) – Member
- AERA Engine Builders Association – Member
- Classic Car Club of America – Member
- GTO Association of America – Certified Judge
- Rookie Rides – Advisory Board Member (2023)
- Mentor to Automotive & Diesel Technicians

MILITARY & PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM)
- Army Achievement Medal (2x)
- Army Good Conduct Award (2x)
- Army Safe Driver Badge (3x)
- Outstanding Army Mechanics Badge
- NATO Medals – Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq
- Iraq Campaign Medal w/ Bronze Star
- President's Award – Southwestern Illinois College

EXPERT WITNESS FEE SCHEDULE

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Standard Professional Fees

- Initial Case Review & Consultation – \$375/hour (2-hour minimum)
- Vehicle Inspection & Appraisal Report – \$375 flat rate or \$375/hour
- Document Review (Photos, Estimates, Reports, etc.) – \$375/hour
- Phone Conferences & Strategy Sessions – \$375/hour
- Written Expert Reports – \$375/hour
- Rebuttal Reports & Secondary Reviews – \$375/hour
- Affidavits & Declarations – \$375/hour

Testimony

- Deposition (In-Person or Remote) – \$375/hour (4-hour minimum)
- Trial Testimony – \$1,500 per half day (4 hours) / \$3,000 full day (8 hours)

Travel & Expenses

- Travel Time (Portal-to-Portal) – \$125/hour
- Mileage (by Auto) – \$0.70 per mile
- Airfare, Lodging, Meals – Actual reimbursable costs
- Rental Car & Ground Transport – Actual reimbursable costs

Retainer & Payment Terms

- Retainer – Based on case complexity, location, and anticipated travel
- Billing – Invoiced monthly; payment due within 30 days
- Rush/Expedited Services – 25% surcharge