

Working with Experts to Develop Defense Strategy

PENNSYLVANIA MIDDLE DISTRICT
CJA PANEL TRAINING 2026



Your PA Middle District
CAPITAL HABEAS
Assistant Federal Public
Defenders

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Working with Experts to Develop Defense Strategy

- **Types of Experts**
- **Obtaining Experts**
- **Building Narrative**

Types of Experts

- Mental Health
- Eyewitness
- Computer Forensics
- Trauma
- Toxicology /
Neuropharmacology
- Social History /
Mitigation

14. TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDER <i>(See Instructions)</i>		
01	☐	Investigator
02	☐	Interpreter/Translator
03	☐	Psychologist
04	☐	Psychiatrist
05	☐	Polygraph
06	☐	Documents Examiner
07	☐	Fingerprint Analyst
08	☐	Accountant
09	☐	CALR (Westlaw/Lexis, etc.)
10	☐	Chemist/Toxicologist
11	☐	Ballistics
13	☐	Weapons/Firearms/Explosive Expert
14	☐	Pathologist/Medical Examiner
15	☐	Other Medical
16	☐	Voice/Audio Analyst
17	☐	Hair/Fiber Expert
18	☐	Computer (Hardware/ Software/Systems)
19	☐	Paralegal Services
20	☐	Legal Analyst/Consultant
21	☐	Jury Consultant
22	☐	Mitigation Specialist
23	☐	Duplication Services
24	☐	Other <i>(Specify)</i>
25	☐	Litigation Support Services
26	☐	Computer Forensics Expert

From CJ21 Authorization and Voucher for
Expert and Other Services

Obtaining Experts

- When to Contact Experts
- Where to Find Experts
- Background Packets
- *Ex Parte* Requests for Funding
- Make the Record

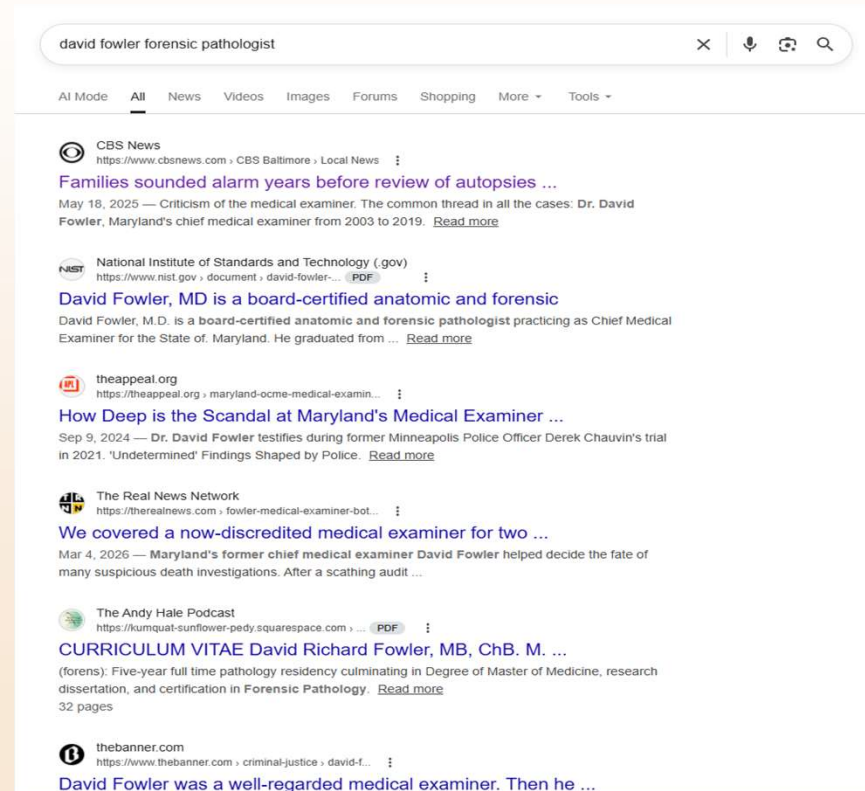
Finding Experts

- Your network
- Prior cases
- Institutional and professional sources



Selecting Experts

- Red flags
- Initial consultation



Background Packets

- **Case Records**
- **Client Background**
- **Expert-Specific Materials**

Requesting Funding

- ***Ex parte* and under seal**
- **Necessary, not merely helpful**
- **Preserve any denial**

“Counsel for a person who is financially unable to obtain investigative, expert, or other services necessary for adequate representation may request them in an ex parte application. Upon finding, after appropriate inquiry in an ex parte proceeding, that the services are necessary and that the person is financially unable to obtain them, the court, or the United States magistrate judge if the services are required in connection with a matter over which he has jurisdiction, shall authorize counsel to obtain the services.” **18 U.S.C. § 3000A(e)(1)**

Building Narrative

- **Consultations**
- **Written Reports**
- **Case Theory / Trial**
- **Sentencing Narrative**

Thank You!

PENNSYLVANIA MIDDLE DISTRICT

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