

(800) 675-5296

SCOTT COHEN



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EXPERT WITNESS

21220 Devonshire Street, #102
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- SWIMMING POOLS
- LANDSCAPE
- HARDSCAPE
- FIRE FEATURES

www.ConstructionDefectExpertWitness.com
www.GreenSceneLandscape.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

Owner and President, The Green Scene Inc. - Landscaping & Swimming Pools

Responsible Managing Officer (1998)

License # 340258 - General Contractor Class B (1998), Pool Contractor Class C-53 (2000) and Landscape Contractor Class C-27 (1989)

Certified Building Professional – Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) #3450629

Chairman, California Pool and Spa Association (2022-2025)

Expert Witness

- Cohen has provided professional forensic services as a member of the Industry Expert Program for the Contractors State License Board since 2002.
- Cohen's expert/forensic services are less than 10% of his total professional services, offered both to plaintiffs and defendants, with the remaining 90% devoted to his landscaping and swimming pool design and build practice.
- Cohen has testified in six trials, ten arbitration hearings, in over thirty depositions and mediations.

Cohen has experience testifying in the following categories:

Swimming Pools and Spas: Permits and plans, gunite construction, shotcrete, ASR damage, leaks, heaved pool shell, popped pool shell, plaster, Pebbletec, colored plaster, design configuration, plastering, plaster delaminating, beach entries, steel placement, tile work, plumbing, coping, waterproofing, water migration, drainage, concrete, heaved concrete, colored concrete, cracks in concrete, shrinkage cracks, epoxy injection, pool crack repair, mastic joints, raised bond beams, sheer descents, laminar jets, deck jets, swimming pool covers, lighting and electrical, hydrostatic relief, permits, The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (VGBA), infinity edge pools, vanishing edge pools, tile delamination, glass tiles falling off, tile installation standards, grout joints, tile expansion joints, mastic, problems with salt systems.

Landscaping and Design: Permits and plans, setbacks, landscape easements, public utility easements, HOA requirements, Ficus tree root damage, invasive tree roots, water runoff, take-offs, computer aided design, patio sizing, setbacks, irrigation systems, sprinklers, drainage, French drains, hydro-static relief drains, grading, retaining walls, seat walls, bender board, planting, rototilling, amendment, fertilization, maintenance practice, fine-grading, low-voltage lighting, LED lighting, transformers, lighting wiring, expansive soil, clay soil, voltage drop, seeding and sod.

Hardscape & Masonry: Patio sizing and placement, control joints, concrete, concrete cracks, score joints, stamped concrete finishing, colored concrete, concrete coping, cast concrete, concrete steps, footings, retaining walls, seat walls, swimming pool decking, delaminating, pop-outs, efflorescence, ADA compliance, drainage, channel drains, sheet flow, water intrusion, weep screed, pavers, stucco, pilasters, lighting, conduits, concrete countertops, permits, plan take-offs, accurate dimensions, decorative concrete, concrete staining, waterproofing.

Outdoor Fireplaces and Fire Pits: fire pits, gas plumbing, smoke draw, outdoor fireplace construction, public safety, gas burners, burn victims, burn accidents, wind screen design.

Ponds & Waterfalls: Ponds, waterfalls, Koi fish, aquatic plants, infinity edge ponds, Aquascape systems, biological filtration, settlement tanks, stagnant water, filtration, skimmer placement, plumbing, electrical, pond maintenance, leaks, excessive splash, rock selection, liners, and underlayment.

Fire damage assessment: quoting repairs for both homeowners and insurance companies caused by fires, wildfires or earthquakes. Fire damage, landscape fire damage assessment, hardscape fire damage assessment, fire damage to outdoor environments, fire and ash damage to swimming pools, pool equipment, evaluating fire damaged hardscapes, wildfire damage repairs, Firescaping, Insurance assessment for fire damage, wildfire resistant landscape designs, forensic evaluation of fire damage, smoke and heat damage to outdoor spaces, estimating costs for fire damage repairs.

Earthquake damage assessment: repair of earthquake damaged concrete, earthquake damaged swimming pools, quoting repairs for both homeowners and insurance companies for damage caused by earthquakes, earthquake damage to drainage and sprinkler systems, earthquake damage to patios and decks. Forensic evaluation of earthquake damage to outdoor patios, decking, patios and swimming pools.

Landscape Designer and Garden Artisan, The Green Scene Inc.

- Professional Practice 1988 – present.
- Design and build residential swimming pools, spas, outdoor kitchens, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, ponds, concrete bridges, concrete driveways, outdoor lighting, waterfalls, retaining walls, and other water features.
- Design and build landscapes including plant selection, placement, irrigation system design and install, drainage systems, sump pumps, grading, soils work and turf installation via sod or seed.
- Offers professional consultation to homeowners before, after, and during their residential construction projects nationwide.
- Oversees construction projects from design through installation, including selection of materials, cost estimating, and change order approval.

Seminar Instructor (to Peers):

- Dallas Texas International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, November 2024
 - Fast Friends – Using NLP and Body Language to bond and quickly build rapport.
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, November 2023
 - Fast Friends – Using NLP and Body Language to bond and quickly build rapport.
 - Family Friendly Landscape Designs – Hardscape and Pools
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, November 2022
 - Construction Defect Seminar – Builders, Bloopers & Blunders: Common Construction Defects
- Pool & Spa Builders Power Panel Expo, November 2020
 - Seminar on Pool Construction and COVID
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, New Orleans November 2019
 - Construction Defect Seminar – “Contractor Bloopers & Blunders 2019”
 - Builders Power Panel – 3 Successful Builders share methodology
- Concrete Décor Show, Arlington, Texas October 2019

- Sizzling Outdoor Kitchens Seminar
- Decorative Concrete Around Pools Seminar

Seminar Instructor (to Peers), cont'd:

- North Eastern Spa and Pool Show, Atlantic City, New Jersey January 2019
 - Landscaping & Swimming Pools Design and Construction
 - Outdoor Lighting in the Garden – safety, design, install
 - Design course - Interviewing and bonding with the client
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, Las Vegas November 2018
 - Construction Defect Seminar – “Contractor Bloopers & Blunders 2018”
 - Concrete patio sizing and outdoor room design “Outer Space Design for Entertaining”
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, Florida November 2017
 - Construction Defect Seminar – “Contractor Bloopers & Blunders 2017”
 - Landscape Lighting Design and Install
- International Pool, Spa & Patio Expo, New Orleans November 2016
 - Outdoor Room Design, Deck & Patio Sizing
 - Design the Ultimate Entertainers Backyard, Fire features, High End Pools
- Concrete Décor Show, San Diego California - September 2016
 - Divide & Conquer: Outdoor Room Design, Deck & Patio Sizing
 - Design the Ultimate Entertainers Backyard
- United Aqua Group - Educational summit, Las Vegas Nevada - March 2016
 - Bonding & Rapport, Qualify the Lead & Intake, Interviewing the client
 - Landscaping and Swimming Pools
- International Pool, Spa, Patio Expo, Nevada - Nov. 2015
 - Candid Contractor - Construction defect seminar swimming pools, vanishing edges
 - 50 Shades of Green - Environmentally friendly pool & landscape design
- North Eastern Spa and Pool Show, New Jersey - Jan. 2015
 - High End Swimming Pool Design
 - Patios, Pergolas, and Petscaping
 - Landscaping & Pools: A Winning Combination
- Pool Spa Expo, Florida - Nov. 2014- APSP
 - Ignite Your Sales with Fire Features
 - Counter-intuitive! Design & Build your own cast concrete countertops
- Concrete Décor Show, Oct. 2014
 - Designer Secrets for Outdoor Room Design & Cast Concrete Barbecue Countertops
 - Ignite Your Sales with Fire Features
- Long Beach Landscape Expo, Oct. 2014
 - High End Pool Design and Construction
- Atlantic City Pool and Spa Show, January 2014
 - The Candid Contractor: Lessons Learned from Construction Defect Expert Witness Files of Scott Cohen
 - Outdoor Fireplaces and Fire Feature Design and Construction
 - The Outdoor Room Boom
- International Pool Spa Patio Expo, November 2013
 - Outdoor Fireplace and Fire Feature Design Build/ Fire & Water
 - The Candid Contractor: Lessons Learned from Construction Defect Expert Witness Files of Scott Cohen

- Concrete Décor Show, March 2013
 - Designing and Building Outdoor Fireplaces and Fire Features

Seminar Instructor (to Peers), cont'd:

- International Pool Spa Patio Expo, November 2012
 - Energize Your Sales with Landscape Lighting
 - Candid Contractor - learn from the mistakes of others
- Concrete Décor Show, February 2012
 - Bringing Fire to the People: Barbeques, Fireplaces & Outdoor Entertainment Systems
 - Build a Better Outdoor Kitchen
- Aquatech Institute Society Conference, February 2012
 - Low Voltage Landscape Lighting Design and Installation
- Canadian Pool and Spa Expo, December 2011
 - High End Swimming Pool Design and Construction
- International Pool Spa Patio Expo, November 2011
 - Bringing Fire to the People: Barbeques, Fireplaces & Outdoor Entertainment Systems
 - Build a Better Outdoor Kitchen
- Concrete Décor Show, March 2011
 - Fireplaces & Fire Features from Design to Completion
 - Decorative Concrete and Water
 - The Outdoor Room Boom
- International Pool and Spa Expo, November 2010
 - Selling with Attitude! Upscale Sales Roundtable
 - High-End Swimming Pool and Spa Design and Construction
 - Outdoor Kitchen Designs and Barbecue Counter Design and Build
- World of Concrete, February 2010
 - “Decorative Outdoor Room, Fireplace and Fire Feature Design Techniques”
 - “Outdoor Patio/Kitchen Design”
- Aquatech Institute Society Conference, January 2010
 - “High End Swimming Pool and Spa Design and Construction” & “Outdoor Room Design”
- International Pool and Spa Conference, November 2008
 - “Outdoor Room Boom: How to Design and Size Outdoor Rooms”
 - “Design and Build: The Outdoor Kitchen”

Television Appearances since 1999

Personable and captivating public speaking and television presence on HGTV and other networks

Television Shows featuring Scott Cohen:

- HGTV's "Ultimate Pools" episode 3
- Reelz Channel: "OMG Backyards"
- HGTV's "Cool Pools", 4 projects in 3 episodes
- A&E's "Fix This Yard"
- HGTV's "Landscape's Challenge" - Homeowners choose one designer from three to design their landscape
- HGTV's "Sizzling Outdoor Kitchens" - Countdown of top 10 kitchens in the United States
- HGTV's "Big Splash" - Countdown of top 10 pools in the United States
- HGTV's "Property Buzz" - Documentary on the latest trends in outdoor room design

- HGTV's "Get Out, Way Out!" - Weekly series featuring one project from start to finish, 12 episodes
- Fine Living Network's "Bodacious Outdoor Spaces", "15 Bodacious Outdoor Kitchens", "X-Treme Outdoor Projects", and "15 More Bodacious Backyards"

Magazine & Web articles from the past 10 years featuring Scott Cohen's expertise:

- *Pool and Spa News*, "All in Good Measure", September 2023, (Quotes and pictures)
- *Pool and Spa News*, "Designing Swimming Pools for Man's Best Friend", August 2023 (Quotes and picture)
- *WaterShapes*, "Designing Outdoor Soundscapes", May 2023
- *WaterShapes* "Pickleball Comes Home", March 2023
- *Pool and Spa News*, "Making Fast Friends": Bonding with Clients Through Neuro-Linguistic Programming, October 2022
- *Pool and Spa News*, "An Argument for Education Requirements" March 2022
- *Pool and Spa News*, "Protecting Shallow Features in Clay Soil", January 2022
- *WaterShapes Magazine*, "The Buzz About Bees", July 2021
- *WaterShapes Magazine*, "The Sizzle of Fire and Water", June 2021
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Making Safe Steps and Landings", January 2021
- *Aqua Magazine*, "The Way We Build Now", January 2021
- *WaterShapes Magazine*, "Subtle Precipitation", March 2020
- *Pool and Spa News* "Under Cover", March 2020
- *Pool and Spa News* "Whose Fault is it Anyway?", October 2019
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Keep Weep Screeds Clear"
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Cold Joints Avoiding Costly Repairs"
- *Concrete Décor Magazine* "Smooth Move", September 2019
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Subtle Precipitation", September 2019
- *Concrete Décor Magazine* "Artistry in Aggregate", June 2018
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Subtracting a Deck" August 2018
- *Concrete Network* "The latest trends in outdoor living" April 2018
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Mastering Outdoor Fire Features", January 2018
- *Pool Pro Magazine* "Don't Let Soil Spoil your Pool Project", clay soils and pools – Nov 2017
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Vanishing Edge Pools Problems and Solutions", August 2017
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Split Level Pond", August 2017
- *Pool Pro Magazine* "High Flying Photos" drone photography of pools, Feb 2017
- *Concrete Décor Magazine* "A Great Outdoors": OMG Backyards features Green Scene projects, Jan 2017
- *Concrete Décor Magazine* "Graceful Curves" Malibu project profile, November 2016
- *Concrete Surfaces Magazine* "Keeping Cool in Calabasas" - Decorative concrete w/infinity pool – November 2016
- *WaterShapes Magazine*, "Singing the Relief Valve Blues" October 2016
- *Concrete Surfaces Magazine*, "Reverse Infinity Pool – Innovation", October 2016
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "French Drains the Right Way" August 2016
- *Aqua Magazine* "A Pocket Guide to Building Vanishing Edge Pools" March 2016
- *Aqua Magazine* "Closing the Comfort Gap in Custom Spas" June 2016
- *Aqua Magazine* "The Never Ending Pool Project" Jan 2016
- *WaterShapes Magazine*, "Expansive Errors" October 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* online series of articles 2014 - 2016
- *Sunday Ventura County Star* – Drought Landscaping & Faux turf use - June 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "All Cracked Up" May 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Water Gone Wild" April 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Water on the Move" March 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Coping with Salt" February 2015
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Overbearing Rockwork" January 2015
- *Pool and Spa News* Dec. 2014
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Edgy Issues" December 2014
- *WaterShapes Magazine* "Raising the Floor" November 2014
- *Concrete Decor* October 2014

- *Aqua Magazine* "The Outdoor Living Movement" Sept. 2014
- *New York Times* Sept. 2014
- *Aqua Magazine* "Pursuing Perfection" July 2016
- *Landscape Contractor* June 2014

Magazine & Web articles from the Past 10 years featuring Scott Cohen's expertise (cont'd):

- *Ventura Blvd* May/June 2014
- *Concrete Decor* magazine April 2014
- (*USA Today*) *Home* magazine March 2014
- *Lawn and Landscape* "Aesthetic Advantage" March 2014
- *Total Landscape Care* "Heat Up Projects" February 2014
- *The Edge* magazine "The Outdoor Room Boom" January 2014
- *All Animals* "The Dog-scaped Yard" May/June 2013
- *Lawn & Landscape* "The Marriage Counselor" April 2013
- *Concrete Network.com and Magazine* "Fire Pit Safety Tips for Hotels, Restaurants and Bars" Jan 2013
- *WaterShapes* Magazine and online series of articles by Scott Cohen called "Lessons Learned" Jan 2013
- *LandscapeOnline.com* *The Best of 2012*
- *Aqua Magazine*, "Safety in the Pits", Oct. 2012
- *Aqua Magazine*, "The Trouble with Tile Installation", Oct. 2012
- *Concrete Decor*, Gontmaher backyard profile, Oct. 2012
- *Aqua Magazine*: Aqua Choice Winner Sept. 2012
- *Calabasas Style*, "10 Beautiful Backyard Design Ideas" May 2012
- *Landscape Contractor*, "Tropical Lighting Getaway" April 2012
- *Backyard Solutions* and *Great Backyards* 2012
- *Landscaping Network Magazine* 2012 "Landscape Design Dimensions" and "Party House"
- *Pool and Spa News* January 2012, "Drawing the Dream"

Professional Industry Recognitions:

- "Volunteer of the Year" Scott Cohen – Leadership awards, Pool and Hot Tub Alliance November 2024
- Masters of Design – 2024 "Compact Oasis" Pool and Spa News
- PHTA Awards of Excellence, Water Feature, Freeform Pools, Vanishing edge, Geometric Positano Sept 2024
- PHTA Awards of Excellence – Gold Award: Residential Water Features; Silver Award: Standalone Spas; Merit Award: Pools with a Vanishing Edge; Merit Award: Geometric - August 2023
- Masters of Design – "Falling Waters" Swimming Pool, "Minimalism to the max" - Spa - August 2023
- Master of Design – Spas Stabile project (Pool and Spa News) - September 2022
- PHTA Awards of Excellence 2022: Gold Award: Residential Water Features, Merit Award: Pools with a Vanishing Edge, and Geometric categories - August 2022
- Hayward Pool of the Year "Sheer Elegance" – UAG February 2020
- Award of Distinction "Raindrops" – UAG February 2020
- Award of Distinction "Classic Beauty" – UAG February 2020
- Award of Distinction "Serene Scene" – UAG February 2020
- Best of Houzz.com February 2020, 2019, 2018
- Water Feature Aqua Master "Streams Come True" – UAG February 2019
- Freeform Pool Aqua Master "Love American Style" – UAG February 2019
- Renovation Aqua Master – "Infinite Possibilities" – UAG February 2019
- Hayward Pool of the Year "Bridge over Bubbled Waters" - February 2018
- Renovation Aqua Master – "InSpaRational" United Aqua Group - February 2017
- United Aqua Group Award: "Best in Show" Zodiac pools - February 2016
- "Aqua Master" - Renovations - United Aqua Group - February 2016
- United Aqua Group Award of Distinction, Zodiac Pool of The Year - January 2015
- Zillow's Top 10 Digs - December 2014
- Concrete Surfaces Polished Concrete Awards - December 2014

- Association of Pool and Spa Professionals Award of Excellence - February 2014
- Best of Houzz.com - February 2014
- 4 Aquatech Society Awards of Distinction - January 2013
- Aqua Choice Award Winner - September 2012
- Masters of Design award winner Kiker project (Pool and Spa News/Hanley Wood) - July 2011
- 1st & 2nd place Decorative Concrete Council Awards for Countertops from the American Society of Concrete Contractors at the World of Concrete trade show in Las Vegas - January 2011
- Masters of Design – Johnston project (Pool & Spa News) - September 2010
- Two GAVA awards in Las Vegas - November 2010
- Silver medal in the 2009 IPPY Book Awards in the Home and Garden category - 2009
- 5 landscape design awards at the Western Pool and Spa Show - March 2009
- 7 landscape design awards at the Western Pool and Spa Show - March 2008
- Masters of Design award winner (Pool and Spa News/Hanley Wood) - July 2008
- Signature Pools and Outdoors Design Award - July 2007
- Signature Pools 1st Place Geometric Design Award - 2005
- Masters of Design award winner (Pool and Spa News/Hanley Wood) - 2004

Books Authored by Scott Cohen

- Poolsapes, Design & Construction of High End Pools (Schiffer Publishing, 2011)
- Family Fun Backyards (Schiffer Publishing, 2013)
- The Candid Contractor, Common Construction Defects (Intellectual Property Sales, 2011)
- Scott Cohen's Outdoor Kitchen Design Workbook (Intellectual Property Sales, 2013)
- Patio Covers, Pergolas, and Pavilions (Intellectual Property Sales, 2011)
- Outdoor Fireplaces and Fire Pits (Intellectual Property Sales, 2011)
- Pool and Spa Perspectives Volumes 1-3 (Intellectual Property Sales, 2009)
- Petscaping (Schiffer Publishing, 2011)
- The Big Book of BBQ Plans (Intellectual Property Sales, 2010)

Books featuring Scott Cohen's work:

- Picture Perfect Pools, 5 project profiles, by Tina Skinner - Schiffer 2007
- Ultimate Outdoor Kitchen, Michelle Kodis – Gibbs Smith 2006
- Sunset Ideas for Great Patios and Decks – Sunset publishing
- Outdoor Kitchens by Better Homes and Gardens - 2004
- Outdoor Kitchens & Fireplaces, 20 featured projects – by Tina Skinner – Schiffer 2008

Employment History

1995 – Present	President and Supervising Designer The Green Scene Inc., Chatsworth, CA
1989 – 1995	Vice President and General Manager The Green Scene Inc., Canoga Park, CA
1984 – 1988	Regional Manager, Lawn and Garden Division Target Stores, Los Angeles and Ventura counties

Education

1988 – 1990 **College of the Canyons**, Ceramics Major
1980 – 1984 **Birmingham High School**, Graduated 1984, Honor Roll
2014 – 2017 **SEAK Expert Witness Training** – The Master’s Program

Professional Organizations

- Pool and Hot Tub Association (PHTA) – Certified Building Professional
- California Pool and Spa Association (CPSA) – Chairman 2022 – current
- PHTA Builders Counsel – Director (writes Builders Manual)
- ANSI Standards Committee - Residential Pools #5, 2022-2024
- Forensic Expert Witness Association – Los Angeles (FEWA)
- United Aqua Group (UAG)
- Tile Council North America (TCNA)
- National Plasterers Council (NPC)

References & Testimonials

Stephan Hyam

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“Scott’s knowledge, credibility, and ability to clearly articulate the defects and costs of remediation were key to reaching a global settlement at the mediation of a case in which three contractors were blaming each other and undervaluing the claim.”

J. Scott Slater

Slater Grant
14502 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite
104
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“Scott was our primary pool expert in a construction lawsuit involving a large, all-glass-tile pool at a \$25 million residence on the coast of Siesta Key, Florida. The issues were complicated, and the stakes were high. Scott was by far the most polished, experienced, and effective pool expert in the case, and largely for that reason, we were able to obtain a very successful result for our client. If you are looking for the premier pool expert, look no further.”

Stephen M. Sanders

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"As a practicing attorney who frequently handles construction defect litigation, it's imperative for me to work with experts who not only possess in-depth knowledge but also bring unquestionable integrity to the table. Scott Cohen has been one of my go-to expert witness for several years now, and he's been nothing short of invaluable.

Brian C. Plante

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LLP**
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“I have retained Scott as an expert witness on numerous cases over the last 18 years, and have always found him to be knowledgeable, thorough, and well prepared. Scott has testified for me on both arbitration and judicial reference proceedings, and in every instance the neutral has adopted his opinions. He is a true asset to our litigation team.”

Jason Tortorici
Schilleci & Tortorici
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“Scott, Thank you so much for all of your hard work on this file! We would never have gotten the case resolved absent your thorough and detailed analysis of the facts and evidence in this case. I have no doubt that you would have made a phenomenal trial witness had we gotten that far. Your attention to detail and pleasant demeanor would have been well received in court and would have probably had the defense begging for mercy! Looking forward to our next case together soon!”

Michael L. Morgan
Morgan Law Group
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“Scott served as the Plaintiff’s expert in a recent civil case involving various defects found in a high-end swimming pool. The pool was constructed in a raised vault located on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Scott’s expertise was the catalyst that ultimately resolved the case to my clients’ satisfaction. I wholeheartedly recommend Scott Cohen to anyone in need of a professional expert in matters relating to swimming pools and swimming pool construction.”

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Rate Schedule

- Construction Defect Inspections: \$350 per hour. (\$4,000 retainer required – additional if travel required).
- Expert Witness Testimony: \$400 per hour, \$1,600 minimum to schedule testimony
- Travel expenses: @ \$1.00 mile plus hotel and any other applicable travel reimbursement applies.
- All billing is invoiced portal to portal for travel.
- Full travel days billed at minimum of \$2,500 per day, plus airfare, car rental, etc.

