

## HOW TO GAUGE THE EXPERTNESS OF YOUR EXPERT

It can be difficult to judge exactly the degree of expertise your expert witness actually possesses. With experts coming from a diversity of backgrounds, there unfortunately is no single criterion by which you can assess everyone. Moreover, there are plenty of spurious credentials out there, i.e. credentials which sound impressive but which in fact are little more than “vanity boards,” conferring their imprimatur on anyone who’s willing to pay the fee.

With psychologists, at least, there is a way to determine whose credentials are truly more representative of bona fide training and experience. Check out this link:  
[http://www.xmission.com/~sgolding/publications/expert\\_voir\\_dire.htm](http://www.xmission.com/~sgolding/publications/expert_voir_dire.htm)  
Stephen Golding is a nationally-recognized forensic psychologist whose article on the voir dire of experts is right on point. Some of his tips apply to medical doctors as well. In general, the rule is to check out the criteria by which the organizations from which doctor is claiming expert status are awarded.