

EXPERT WITNESSES

You have heard testimony from witnesses who are known as expert witnesses. An expert witness is a person who has special knowledge, experience, training, or education about a particular subject.¹ Because of this expertise, an expert witness may offer opinions about one or more of the issues in this case.²

In considering an expert witness's testimony, you should evaluate his or her credibility and statements just as you would with any other witness, giving the testimony as much weight as you think it deserves.³ You should also evaluate whether the expert's opinion is supported by the other evidence in the case, whether the reasons given by the expert in support of his or her opinion make sense, and whether the opinion is supported by the expert's knowledge, experience, training, or education.⁴

You are not required to give the testimony of an expert any greater weight than you believe it deserves just because the witness has been referred to as an expert.⁵

¹ Judge Reiss Instruction.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*; Ninth Circuit Model Jury Instructions.

⁴ Judge Murtha Instruction; Judge Reiss Instruction.

⁵ Judge Murtha Instruction; Judge Reiss Instruction; Judge Sessions Instruction.