



Daniel L. O'Connell

President

Double Track Consulting, LLC

735 Strada Casalingo Court,

Redlands, CA 92373

(951) 315-8180

Email:

daniel.oconnell@railroadexpertwitnesses.com

danny@doubletrackconsulting.com

Web:

<https://www.railroadexpertwitnesses.com>

<https://www.doubletrackconsulting.com>

CURRICULUM VITAE

Expert Witness and Subject Matter Specialist for Railroad Incidents and Accidents

Passenger, Commuter, and Freight Trains

Current Position

DOUBLE TRACK CONSULTING, LLC

Railroad Expert Witness and Litigation Consulting

President/Consultant (2020-Present)

Redlands, California

Railroad Expert Witness

"Extensive experience in providing testimony and insight for a range of railroad-related incidents. Skilled in handling cases involving employee injuries, fatalities on freight, passenger, and commuter trains under the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA).

Proficient in analyzing and testifying for grade crossing cases involving trains against pedestrians or automobiles. Recognized as a Subject Matter Expert with a deep understanding of Locomotive Event Recorder and Camera data, I have served multiple times as a PMQ/PMK (Person Most Qualified - Person Most Knowledgeable) in litigation. Eager to leverage my specialized knowledge and expertise to provide credible, fact-based testimonies in complex railroad litigation scenarios."

Subject Matter Expert for Railroad Operations

“Railroad professional with a rich 42-year tenure spanning multiple facets of freight, passenger, and commuter service operations. My journey commenced with foundational roles as a Brakeman, Switchman, Conductor, and Certified Engineer at the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railway. This hands-on experience was further enriched with my tenure as a Certified Engineer Instructor at Amtrak, strengthening my command over train operations and operating rules interpretation.

My commitment to operational excellence and safety was recognized, leading to subsequent promotions to strategic railroad management roles. These roles spanned from Rules Instructor and Transportation Manager to the Road Foreman of Engines, culminating as the System General Road Foreman of Engines. My management capabilities extended to overseeing passenger and commuter operations for Metrolink in the dynamic environment of Southern California.

My leadership journey further encompassed pivotal roles with Amtrak in the Southwest, including Assistant Superintendent, Director of On-Board Services, and Superintendent of State-Supported Intercity and Long-Distance Passenger Trains.

I pride myself on a deep industry perspective, enriched by hands-on experience and strategic leadership roles. I am eager to leverage this extensive knowledge and unparalleled expertise to contribute to railroad initiatives, litigation support, or advisory roles that demand a seasoned industry perspective.”

Professional Experience & Collaborations

- **Partnerships & Collaborations**
 - Extensive collaboration with operating craft unions, reinforcing best practices and ensuring adherence to industry guidelines.
 - Worked closely with regulatory bodies including the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) and the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB), ensuring compliance, safety, and process optimization.
- **Accident/Incident Investigation Expertise**
 - Specialized in root cause analysis to determine factual events leading up to major rail incidents.
 - Engaged as a key member of NTSB post-accident committees, contributing to comprehensive investigative procedures and recommendations.
 - Integral member of the Incident Response Team (IRT) for Amtrak Emergency Management, mandated by the FRA, tasked with coordination and management of both employees and passengers in significant fatal train incidents.

Major Incident Involvements:

Metrolink Incidents:

- **Glendale, CA** (January 2005)
 - Incident: Two Commuter Trains vs. Automobile/Union Pacific Freight Train.
 - Impact: 11 Fatalities (including Conductor), 177 passenger injuries.
- **Chatsworth, CA** (September 2008)
 - Incident: Metrolink Commuter Train vs. Union Pacific Freight Train.
 - Impact: 25 Fatalities (including Engineer), 200 Injuries to Passengers.
- **Rialto, CA** (November 2008)
 - Incident: Commuter Train vs. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Freight Train.
 - Impact: 4 Injuries to Passengers.
- **Oxnard, CA** (February 2015)
 - Incident: Commuter Train vs. Automobile.
 - Impact: 1 Fatality (Train Engineer), 33 injuries to Passengers.

Amtrak Incidents:

- **Cimarron, KS** (March 2016)
 - Incident: Amtrak Southwest Chief derailment due to a misaligned rail from a grain truck collision.
 - Impact: 28 injuries.
- **Tacoma, WA** (December 2017)
 - Incident: Amtrak Cascade overspeed derailment on inaugural run over a newly updated line.
 - Impact: 3 Fatalities, 65 injured (including 8 in road vehicles).

Employment History

President - Double Track Consulting, LLC

Redlands, CA | July 2020 - Present

As a seasoned railroad consultant, I spearhead a variety of passenger and freight projects, ensuring operational excellence, safety, and adherence to industry standards. My role further extends to expert witness services and providing specialized subject matter expertise.

Railroad Consultant & Contracting Agent:

Collaborated with multiple rail entities for operational and training projects. Notable contracts include:

- **Transportation Certification Services (TCS) - Contractor:**
 - *August 2021:* Royal Gorge Route Railroad, Canon City, CO - Conductor Training.
 - *December 2021:* GO Transit RR, Toronto, ON, Canada - Temporary Management in response to Covid manpower shortages.
 - *January 2022:* Norfolk Southern RR, McDonough, GA - Conductor Training.
 - *March – August 2022:* Union Pacific RR - Conductor Training across multiple locations:
 - Salt Lake City, Utah
 - Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
 - Portland, Oregon
 - Pocatello, Idaho
 - *November 2023:* GO Transit RR, Toronto, ON, Canada - Temporary Management in response to Covid manpower shortages.
 - *January 2024:* GO Transit RR, Toronto, ON, Canada - Temporary Management in response to Covid manpower shortages.

Railroad Expert Witness:

- Entrusted with numerous sensitive cases, adhering to attorney-client privilege. Case types include:
 - Personal Injury to employees - FELA
 - Personal Injury to passengers
 - American Disabilities Act Complaints
 - Highway Crossing at Grade Fatalities
 - Pedestrian Fatalities

Railroad Subject Matter Expert:

- Recognized and listed on prominent directories including:
 - SEAK Expert Witness Directory
 - Expert Institute
 - Legal Experts Direct
 - LA County Bar Association – Expert Witnesses and Consultants
 - SanDiego County Bar Association – Expert Witnesses and Consultants
 - Gerson Lehrman Group (GLG)
 - Pro Sapient
 - Guidepoint

Superintendent-Director On-Board Services

Amtrak, Los Angeles | July 2018 - July 2020

- Managed a team of over 580 employees for Amtrak's Onboard Services across both Long Distance and State Supported services.
- Achievements:
 - Boosted the Electronic Customer Service Index (eCSI) scores.
 - Reduced the Operating Budget by eliminating unnecessary overtime through meticulous oversight and effective scheduling.
 - Decreased FRA Reportable Incidents by 27%, emphasizing face-to-face interaction between employees and management.

Assistant Superintendent / Road-Yard Operations

Amtrak, Los Angeles | July 2009 - July 2018

- Oversaw Road and Yard operations for Long-Distance and State Supported services from Los Angeles.
- Collaborated with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on Close-Call-Reporting (C3RS) for self-reporting post-rule violations, achieving a 22% reduction in major rule violations.
- Conducted derailment investigations in collaboration with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for Amtrak and Metrolink Derailments.
- Participated in depositions for Amtrak and Metrolink regarding legal proceedings stemming from derailments, grade crossing incidents, and trespasser strikes.

Assistant General Manager

Connex Railroad, Los Angeles | September 2004 - July 2009

- Managed day-to-day operations of Metrolink Commuter Service in collaboration with the Southern California Region Rail Association.
- Key Contributions:
 - Formulated the Certified Engineer Training Program.
 - Spearheaded Accident, Derailment, and Fatality Investigations.
 - Held multiple roles including System General Road Foreman of Engines, Transportation Manager, Rules Instructor, and Locomotive Engineer.

Engineer - Rules Instructor - Training Coordinator

Amtrak, Los Angeles | October 1992 - September 2004

- Served as an Engineer for Passenger/Long Distance/State Supported and Commuter Trains.
- Functioned as the Operating Rules Instructor.
- Coordinated on-the-job training for newly hired engineers.

Revised March 21, 2024

Engineer, Conductor, Brakeman

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, Los Angeles | April 1978 - October 1992

- Experienced in freight services in diverse terrains, including urban, desert, and mountain-grade territories.
- Employed in Passenger Services for Long Distance and State Supported routes in collaboration with Amtrak.
- Engaged in comprehensive switching operations, including local, road switcher, and yard tasks.

Education and Training

Lean Six-Sigma/Business Acumen

Amtrak | 2014-2020

Acquired comprehensive business management training in the following areas:

- Safety and Security
- Critical Incident Command System
- Federal Railroad Safety Act
- Charging Officer Training
- Emergency Preparedness
- Sexual Harassment and Diversity in the Workplace

Freight and Passenger Railroad Operating Certification and Training

- **Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers (DSLE)**
Amtrak | 2004
- **Certified Engineer Instructor**
ATSF | 1991
- **Engineer Certification**
ATSF | 1990
- **Conductor Certification**
ATSF | 1981
- **Brakeman/Switchman Certification**
ATSF | 1978
- **Amtrak/Santa Fe | 1978 - 2009**
Successfully completed all mandatory federal training and certifications for Conductor (1981), Engineer (1990), and Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers (2004).

Additional Training and Seminars

- **American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLLR) Annual Conference & Exhibition**
Phoenix, Arizona | November 2021
- **American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLLR) Annual Conference & Exhibition**
New Orleans, Louisiana | March 2023