



SINNOTT CONSULTING ARBORIST

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Arborist Involvement with Legal Issues

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Arborists can become involved with legal issues, often in the role of a consultant, expert witness, being deposed, prosecuted, appearing in court and sometimes needing to take legal action themselves.

Legal Issues

Examples of legal issues an arborist can be involved with are personal injury, views, boundaries, heritage trees, vandalism, negligence, hazard, expert witness, forensics, appraisals. Arborists can be involved with the dispute resolution through litigation, arbitration or mediation.

Clients

Arborists often work for attorneys, insurance adjustors, laymen. As an arborist, legal issues can involve private landowners, homeowner associations, municipalities, highway agencies, utility companies, insurance companies, private tree companies, other practicing arborists.

Practice

Continually seek advanced arborist training, both legal and scientific. Advanced knowledge increases your confidence and your value in the legal field. Excellent report writing skills are essential. The arborist report delivers what the arborist is hired for; all parties involved need to be able to understand the content of the report.

It is essential to be ethical, impartial, competent, objective and professional. It is important to work for plaintiffs as well as defendants. Prepare the attorney relating to your arborist knowledge. Let the attorney know if you have legal experience.

Know when to walk away.