

Joseph Cohen, Ph.D.

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PROFILE

Forensic human factors professional retained in matters of personal injury and wrongful death, with 25 years of experience analyzing falls, collisions, and human interaction with the built environment, engineered systems, and environmental conditions. Provides expert services and consulting on human factors, human performance capabilities and limitations (mental and physical), performance shaping factors, hazards and safety, warnings and instructions, and compliance with applicable standards and industry practices.

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Practice includes premises liability, traffic crashes, workplace safety, and product safety
- Testified in multiple jurisdictions including CA, AZ, NV, Intertribal Court, and U.S. District Court
- Retained by both plaintiff and defense counsel
- Consultations with legal counsel practicing in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Singapore

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Human performance and human performance management
- Human factors and technology
- Vehicles, traffic, and pedestrians (including nighttime issues)
- Slip, trip, and fall analysis
- Warnings and instructions

METHODS & TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- Inspections and field work
- Literature reviews and rebuttals
- Reconstruction support and analysis
- Documentation of sites and nighttime scenes
- Walking science and tribometry
- Standards-based evaluation

CURRENT POSITION

President & CEO, Error Analysis, Inc. (2017–Present)

Conducts forensic evaluations of human interaction, consults, and provides scientifically grounded expert opinions and testimony, supported by methods and analysis of premises, traffic, product, and workplace issues. Leads project work. Collaborates with peers. Mentors early-career professionals. Manages staff.

PAST POSITIONS

Senior Consultant (2007-2017) and Associate (1997-2007), Error Analysis, inc.

Led projects as a consultant with commercial clients while supporting experts from retention through trial in cases involving loss due to slips, trips, collisions with motor vehicles, drowning, burns, exposures, and other events. Client organizations for project work included the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (under sub-contract), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Consolidated Edison of New York, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Zamboni Company USA, and others.

Organizational Development Specialist, City of San Diego, Metro Wastewater Department (2005-2006)

In part, evaluated the effectiveness of a health and injury management program designed to bring employees back to work safely and in a timely manner. Doctorate degree field placement site.

Research Associate, Pacific Science and Engineering Group, Inc., San Diego, CA (2005)

Supported studies involving human attention, vigilance, and augmented cognition tools to combat negative effects of attention failure in naval air warfare amongst other projects. Doctorate degree field placement site.

A.S. Imada and Associates, Carmichael, CA (2001)

Tested effects of ergonomic enhancements in food service at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles during joint project between the Aramark Corporation and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Master's degree internship.

Self-Defense Instructor, Young Olympians, Tustin, CA (1994-1998)

Provided training to children ages 5-15 and managed classes and equipment sales in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties while an undergraduate student and a graduate student.

EDUCATION

B.A., Psychology, UC Riverside (1997)

M.A., Psychology, Applied-Experimental (Human Factors option), CSU Northridge (2000)

Ph.D. and M.S., Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Alliant International University (2005 and 2009)

CERTIFICATIONS

CHFP (Human Factors), CHCM (Hazard Control Management), CXL (XL Tribometry)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Human Factors Accident Classification System (HFACS), Embry-Riddle University (2024)
- Response, Human Factors in Driving and Emergency Situations, Driver Research Institute (2023)

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Service in national leadership roles within the human factors and ergonomics community, including the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE), Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES), ASTM International, and as Associate Editor of the peer-reviewed quarterly *Ergonomics in Design*.

PEER-REVIEWED WRITINGS & PRESENTATIONS

Full list available upon request.