

Issues and Intricacies of the Forensic  
Evaluation of a Younger Adult with  
Advanced Education and Training,  
but No Work History

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Issues of evaluation:  
Interview  
Records  
Tools/Resources  
Methodology ?

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The Case Studies :  
College Sophomore  
Engineering Intern  
High School Sr./Military  
The Fraternity Case

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**Case Study #1:**

19 year old male  
HS education at private prep school  
At DOD in private college in major US city, completed 2 semesters with passing grades  
Parents college graduates; father owns wealth management firm

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Subject had long History of D&A abuse with failed treatment outcomes  
Deceases from opioid overdose on campus in November of fall semester. At time of death student had competed 28 college credits.

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**Subject's Vocational Background**

Full adult work history was part-time as waiter and bartender during semester breaks. Lifetime earnings approximately \$5,000 across 2012 and 2013. Worked as golf caddy in summers during high school

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**Plaintiff's Expert Report View**

No vocational assessments performed by other expert(s).

"Economic Report" from MBA assumes a completion of BS in Business at age 22.2 years and concludes a lifetime earnings value at \$3,605,033 if subject works to age 70.

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**Defense View**

No past relevant work; future employment limited to performing unskilled work.

Base annual earning capacity of \$15,080.00 – (\$7.25/hour x 40 hours per week x 52 weeks per year). The amount of \$15,080.00 is the forensically assessed annual earning capacity of subject as of DOD.

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**Lifetime Earning's Analysis**

Subject's lifetime earning capacity is \$551,928.00. This figure assumes an individual who is limited to the performance of a full-time, unskilled occupation which pays the prevailing minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. This figure would represent subject's lowest estimate of lifetime earnings, so long as there were no future periods of occupational inactivity due to interference from psychological symptoms and/or work cessation due to substance abuse.

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Defense Attorney's View:  
  
Earnings estimate too high due to past failed D& A treatment responses and psychiatric diagnoses

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Case Study #2:  
  
22 year old college senior working at a Field Inspector with (state) Dept. of Transportation in a summer college internship from May 2015 to early Aug 2015.  
In early Aug 2015 subject was struck and run over by dump truck at worksite. Sustained chest/right shoulder and lower extremities crush injuries.  
At time of injury subject was enrolled in bachelor degree for dual major civil engineer and survey engineer at major northeast university. Completed 3 yrs of course work but not received degree(s) or certificate.

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Vocational Background

- No significant professional work history.
- Had worked part-time summer jobs as short-order cook earning slightly over \$10.00/hr.
- College GPA after 3 full semesters in dual majors- survey engineering and civil engineering = 2.9

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**Plaintiff's Experts' Opinions:**

- IME physician for subject's counsel indicates permanent light abilities
- Vocational Expert project's future employment as civil engineer working in a teaching or non-field work site
- WLE = 43yrs( ages 24-67) absent work injury
- Career assessment = College "teacher" but not Civil Engineer
- Estimates wage loss of \$22,101 per year for 14 yrs of future work life
- Total lifetime earnings loss of \$492,522.00 and \$519,827.00

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**Defense Report:**

- No subject interview allowed
- Accepts Light RFC per plaintiff IME report
- Accepts theory that subject capable of attaining professional degree and will have future WLE of 24 yrs
- Evaluates other employment in engineering field such as Electronics Engineer, Health and Safety Engineer, Mechanical Engineer and/or Computer Hardware Engineer also considers college instructor
- Average Annual Wage range of \$84,180.00 to 122,390.00 for aforementioned occupations as per wage data research in plaintiff's local employment region.

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**Hypo Case # 3:**

- 19 yr old college student attends major public northeastern university
- After 3 trimesters completed 3 credits with grades of B, B and C.
- Barely graduated High School. High-average SAT scores
- Father is master's level engineer 29 yrs
- Mother is master's level teacher 22 yrs

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Questions / Discussions

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