

Paul Gaston
General Foreman | Construction Management | Skilled Trades Leadership
Chicago, IL | paul@gastonconsultants.com | 773.619.1226

Construction professional with over 30 years of experience spanning commercial, residential, municipal, healthcare, and retail industries. Proven track record of managing complex projects, leading teams of skilled tradesmen, and ensuring quality and safety across diverse project types. A licensed General Contractor for the City of Chicago, as well as providing expert consulting services and leadership for construction projects of all scales.

Areas of Expertise

Commercial, Residential, Healthcare, and Municipal Construction Expert including:

- **Construction Safety Leadership:** Proven expertise in all facets of construction site safety including fall protection, scaffolding, confined space protocols, ladder safety, aerial lifts, hoisting operations, trip/fall hazard mitigation, barricading, temporary protection systems, hazmat and dust containment procedures, and the full spectrum of personal protective equipment (PPE). Extensive OSHA training and continuous safety education.
- **Occupied and Secure Site Renovation:** Specialized in managing complex renovations in fully operational and high-security environments, including O'Hare International Airport, City of Chicago firehouses, educational facilities, government offices, municipal buildings, and retail spaces. Available for off-hour shifts and 24/7 on-call support in secured access areas requiring security clearance.
- **Quality Assurance and Special Inspections Management:** Deep proficiency in quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) protocols, including the coordination and oversight of third-party inspections and materials testing to ensure regulatory compliance and performance standards.
- **Code Compliance and Permitting Expertise:** Advanced knowledge of ADA compliance standards and thorough experience in obtaining building permits and sign-offs from municipal authorities, health departments, and FAA/Department of Aviation.
- **Tenant Improvements (TI) and Light Gauge Framing:** Extensive background in design-build and specialty TI work including light gauge metal stud framing for walls and soffits, wall system installation, suspended ceilings, and other high-finish tenant installations.
- **Finish Carpentry and Millwork Installation:** Mastery in installing cabinets, casework, architectural millwork, and custom closet systems with precision and high-end finish quality.
- **Building Envelope and Exterior Systems:** Skilled in exterior siding systems including fiber cement (Hardie Board), cement board, and installation of weather-rated building wrap systems such as Tyvek, Owens Corning, and Typar.
- **Fire Rated Construction:** In-depth experience constructing fire walls, fire-rated partitions and openings, and implementing code-compliant firestopping techniques.

- **Commercial Hardware Installation:** Certified and highly experienced in the installation of Medeco and Keymark hardware, as well as panic devices, closers, door coordinators, double egress systems, sliding doors, and automated entry solutions.
- **Concrete Formwork and Reinforcement:** Proficient in concrete construction including forming, rebar placement, embeds, and high-quality finishing techniques.
- **Custom Countertop Fabrication and Installation:** Expert in Corian, Formica, and granite countertop fabrication and installation for residential and commercial applications.
- **Restroom and Wet Area Construction:** Skilled in all aspects of wet area build-outs including toilet partitions and accessories, ADA-compliant grab bars, wall-hung fixtures, baby changing stations, exhaust fans, and corner guards.
- **FF&E and Retail Fixture Installation:** Experienced in installation and layout of furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) including Steelcase, Herman Miller, Ultra Wall, and Vaughn Wall panel systems.
- **Commercial Refrigeration Installations:** Proficient in installing and coordinating walk-in coolers, freezers, and refrigerated fixtures from Hill Phoenix, Hussmann, and Lozier.
- **Escalator and Speed Walkway Construction Support:** Participated in structural and finish build-outs associated with escalators and moving walkways in high-traffic environments.
- **Union Construction Expertise:** Veteran member of Carpenters Local 10 since 1989 with extensive experience in labor union negotiations and construction trade practices.
- **Custom Residential Construction and Upgrades:** Demonstrated capability in high-end custom home builds, townhouse upgrades, and condominium renovations, including build-to-suit projects.
- **Power Tool Proficiency:** Skilled in the safe and efficient use of power tools, including Hiti and Redhead systems.

Professional Experience

Principal Consultant | Gaston Consulting
2022 - Present | Chicago, IL

Senior expert witness and consultant, providing specialized expertise in construction-related litigation and dispute resolution. Conducts thorough assessments, generates expert reports, provides clear testimony, and advises legal teams by leveraging decades of industry experience.

- Lead comprehensive investigations and assessments of construction projects, identifying technical issues related to completed construction, project management, safety standards, contract disputes, and compliance with industry best practices and regulations.
- Experienced delivery of expert testimony in legal proceedings including both depositions and court.
- Development of detailed expert reports, case analyses, and recommendations, ensuring thorough, unbiased, and defensible evaluations, opinions, and conclusions.

General Foreman | Department of Aviation, City of Chicago – O'Hare International Airport,
2007 – Present | Chicago, IL

General foreman for the Department of Aviation at O'Hare International Airport. Manages employees and contractors for multiple ongoing renovation, maintenance, and construction projects throughout the airport. Directs a team of 25 carpenters and trade professionals as

well as oversees the carpenter shop. Supervises a multi-trade team responsible for carpentry, painting, flooring, tile, plumbing, and electrical work, ensuring high-quality standards and safety protocols are met. Manages ongoing renovation projects in terminals, operations areas, and airfield facilities, including emergency repairs and preventative maintenance.

Led key renovation efforts such as:

- Terminal 1 Concourse C: Complete remodel of men's and women's restrooms.
- City of Chicago: Operations tower.
- City of Chicago: Complete remodel of Administration buildings.
- American/ United Airlines: Renovation of offices and operations areas.
- O'Hare Operations: New construction of snow command center.
- South Electrical Airfield Vault: Renovation of new doors and installing hardware.
- Airfield Capitol Door Program: Renovation and replacement of airfield doors & frames.
- Emergency Response: Acted as the primary point of contact for emergency response, addressing safety hazards and critical incidents, on a 24/7 basis.
- Directed cross-functional teams of internal staff and external contractors to maintain uninterrupted airport operations.

Foreman/ Construction Supervisor | City of Chicago, Department of General Services
2005 – 2007 | Chicago, IL

Led construction and renovation projects for the City of Chicago, including significant maintenance, repairs, and expansions of city-owned buildings. Oversaw renovations at key properties:

- Chicago Police Academy, renovation of new workout and training facility.
- Chicago Public Libraries, replacement of floors, offices and bathrooms.
- Chicago Fire Academy, renovation of doors and office areas.
- Board of Education, renovation and conversion of new office and storage facilities.
- City Hall, remodel of Mayor and Aldermanic office.

Project Manager/ Superintendent | Oakley Construction Contractors
2004 – 2005 | Chicago, IL

Managed diverse construction projects for public, private, commercial, and government clients, overseeing both field operations and administrative duties.

- Managed Loyola Medical Center, 1st Ave/Roosevelt Maywood, IL Project.
- Led a six-story renovation project at Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy, including elevator, sewer, and parking lot improvements. Directed ADA-compliant upgrades and extensive renovations.

Carpenter Foreman | George Sollitt Construction Company
2002 – 2004 | Wood Dale, IL

Managed carpentry and onsite field operations for large-scale commercial projects, including educational and healthcare facilities. Projects include:

- Chicago Public Schools, Kelly High School, 350,000 sq ft three-story addition
- Chicago Public Schools, Eugene Field Elementary, new school construction.
- Shriners Hospital, served as lead foreman on project

Lead Carpenter | Pepper Construction Company
2001 – 2002 | Chicago, IL

Lead carpenter for commercial building projects, specializing in high-rise construction, retail, and property maintenance.

- Managed carpentry work for Marshall Field's and The Garlands of Barrington, ensuring high-quality finishes for retail displays and residential villas.
- Provided expert craftsmanship and leadership on specialty projects, including custom woodwork for retail displays, local sports bar, and Starbucks on premises.

Lead Carpenter | Hussmann Corporation

1999 – 2001 | Bolingbrook, IL

Lead carpenter and led carpentry operations focused on remodeling and updating grocery stores, including fixture replacement and ADA compliance.

- Managed carpentry for multiple Jewel-Osco and Meijer store remodels, overseeing the installation of coolers, shelving, washrooms, and ADA-compliant facilities.
- Coordinated carpentry work on new store builds

Lead Carpenter | The Roberts, Ecker and Mock Corporation

1996 – 1999 | Elmhurst, IL

Oversaw office space build-outs and interior renovations, served as in-house carpenter for several companies in Chicago downtown area.

- Managed the conversion of CNA Insurance and Zurich Towers into modern office spaces with custom millwork and specialty finishes.
- Directed a team in new construction, custom millwork, and the renovations for USG and Arthur Anderson Accounting Firm.

Lead Carpenter | R&D Thiel Carpenter Contractors, Inc.

1994 – 1996 | Belvidere, IL

Led residential framing and interior trim work, specializing in custom home construction and multi-family developments.

- Managed new construction, framing and interior trim work for high-end homes and townhomes, including the Arbor Ridge, Cambria Townhomes, White Eagle Golf Club, and Odyssey Club, projects.

Lead Carpenter | Woolworth Department Store

1993 – 1994 | Chicago, IL

Oversaw general maintenance and small remodeling projects for two downtown Chicago locations.

- Performed routine maintenance and minor renovations to improve store layout and public safety, ensuring compliance with public and city inspections.

Certification & Licenses

1989 - 1993 Chicago District Council of Carpenters Apprentice Program
1989 - Present Union Journeymen Carpenter in Chicago, Carpenters Local 10.
2023 – Present General Contractors License with the City of Chicago
1993 – Present Maintains certifications or advanced training in the following areas:

Aerial Lift Training
Ceiling Systems
Construction Management
Fall Injuries
Fire Prevention
Firestopping
First Aid
Hardware
Hardware Electrified water

Layout
OSHA
Permit- Required Confined Spaces (Entrant)
Personal Protection Equipment
Preparing for Weather Emergency Action
Preventing Workplace Violence
Respiratory Protection
Scaffolds in Construction



Commercial, Municipal, Healthcare and Residential Expert Witness Services

Forensic Services Provided to Attorneys and Insurance Claims Specialists

- Claim and File Review
- Range of Cost Estimate of Services to be provided by Gaston Consulting
- Assist in Retaining and Coordinating the effort of other experts
- Review of Records and Contracts
- Site inspection
- Building Code, Manufacturer's Recommendations, and Substantiating Data Research
- Cost, Schedule, and Quality Analysis
- Interviewing of Witnesses
- Discussions with Opposing Experts
- Opinion and Report Development
- Expert Witness Testimony in Disposition, Court, Arbitration, and Mediations

Let Paul Gaston help you with your construction issues.

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Commercial, Municipal, Healthcare and Residential Expert Witness Services

Fee Schedule

Rates:

Consultant's hourly rates for forensic investigation, opinion and testimony services are as follows:

- Professional rate: \$285.00 per hour. Rates apply to the following:
 - Investigation - onsite and offsite investigation and research
 - Opinions and consultations
 - File Review and Preparation
 - Report preparation
- Non-Videotaped Testimonial/Presentation rate: \$2,000 per half day/four hours (minimum), thereafter, \$425.00 per hour for deposition, trial, arbitration, mediation and standby. **Minimum billing four hours.**
- Minimum charge of two hours for non-testimony and four hours for testimony appointments.
- Cancellations within three business days of requested testimony or presentation will be billed at a flat fee of \$500.
- Video Taped Testimony/Presentation rate: \$2,400/half day 4 hr. minimum, thereafter \$425.00/hour with associated standby & travel.
- Travel time is billed separately, door to door at half professional rate or **\$142.50 per hour**
- Expenses are billed at actual costs plus 10% including:
 - Mileage at IRS standard rate will be used for auto mileage
 - Other travel costs including airfare, car service, hotel and meals are billed as described below.
 - Other costs pre-approved by client via phone, text or email. Text and phone to confirmed via an email.

Estimated Value of Services:

We provide a listing of estimated hours for your case. This estimate typically does not include "Testimonial/Presentation" service hours.

Refundable Retainer/ Deposit:

Based on the Estimated Value of Services above, we request a retainer that represents approximately 50% of the estimated value of services amount. Retainers are due with the executed agreement and must be received prior to any work takes place on your case.

This fee schedule is subject to change pending assignment/work product and timing details. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions, concerns and to confirm rates.

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