

Desiree Ann Wood

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Expert Witness – Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment in Entry-Level Commercial Driver Training

Transportation safety and regulatory policy expert with more than 15 years of commercial motor vehicle operations experience and nationally recognized expertise in systemic safety failures within entry-level driver training programs. Former Nevada Department of Transportation Freight Planner and executive leader of two national driver advocacy organizations. Provide expert witness analysis and testimony on sexual assault, sexual harassment, instructor misconduct, coercion, and structural vulnerabilities affecting new entrants in commercial driver training environments. Experienced in reviewing training practices, safety protocols, FMCSA regulatory frameworks, and industry standards to assess compliance, risk exposure, and institutional negligence.



[Desiree Wood | Real Women In Trucking](#)

Education

- University of Maryland University College – B.S. Business Administration & Management (2014)
- University of Nevada (2000 – 2001)
- CDL-A Holder since 2007 | Over 1 million safe miles
- Hazardous Materials Endorsement (2008–2014)
- Smith System Certified – Safe Truck Driving Techniques

Areas of Expert Witness Specialization

- Sexual assault and sexual harassment in entry-level driver training programs
- Instructor misconduct, coercion, retaliation, and unsafe co-habitation training models
- FMCSA regulatory frameworks, training provider obligations, and safety compliance
- Company-sponsored training programs, apprenticeship models, and team-driving operations
- Workplace violence risk factors affecting women and new entrants
- Misclassification (1099), wage theft, carrier abandonment, and employer-driven debt schemes
- Unsafe workplace practices, discriminatory treatment, and hostile training environments
- Truck parking safety, fatigue risk, and operational hazards
- Industry norms, fleet practices, turnover patterns, and systemic risk indicators

Work Experience:

Nevada Department of Transportation April 2024 to May 2026

Planner Analyst (Freight Program) Apr 2024–May 2026

- Managed the Nevada State Freight Advisory Committee, facilitating collaboration among public agencies, private industry, consultants, and stakeholders to support statewide freight planning initiatives.
- Coordinated statewide freight planning activities, consultant oversight, and collaboration with FHWA and other federal transportation partners.

REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.

Founder & President 2013–Present

Truckers Emergency Assistance Responders, Inc

Founder & President 2019 - Present



- Founded and lead two national organizations, a transportation trade association representing commercial motor vehicle drivers in freight policy, truck parking, transportation safety, workforce development, and regulatory initiatives and a charitable organization.
- Direct organizational strategy, board governance, public policy, stakeholder engagement, legislative outreach, media relations, and organizational operations.
- Serve as spokesperson, subject-matter expert witness for legal cases, and national media.
- Directed transportation research addressing truck parking, workforce conditions, commercial motor vehicle safety, and regulatory policy.
- Produce reports, educational materials, and public comments for federal and state agencies.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Operations

12/2007 to 11/2023 – CDL Class A Current

- Operated Class A commercial motor vehicles throughout the continental United States with more than one million accident-free miles while maintaining compliance with FMCSA regulations governing hours of service, safety, and commercial operations.
- Experience as a company driver, owner-operator, CDL trainer, and specialized freight operator, providing firsthand operational knowledge of commercial transportation systems and regulatory compliance.

Expert Witness & Legal Consulting

- *Jane Doe v. CRST* – Taylor & Ring (Manhattan Beach, CA) *Sexual assault in entry-level driver training* (2021)
- *Tolefree v. Swift* – Berokim & Duel P.C. (Beverly Hills, CA)
- Public Justice
- PRF Law Firm Washington D.C. (ongoing)

Key Milestones & Subject-Matter Contributions

- **2016:** Produced and presented *Sexual Misconduct Impacts Trucking Safety*, one of the first industry-specific analyses connecting gender-based violence to transportation safety outcomes.
- **2016:** Panelist, U.S. Department of Labor Women in Transportation Webinar – *Women Moving America*.
- **2018:** REAL Women in Trucking joined Public Justice and The Nation in successful Motion to Unseal documents in *Sellers v. CRST* (sexual harassment class action).
- **2019:** Led national petition urging FMCSA to take immediate action on sexual misconduct in entry-level driver training; secured meeting with FMCSA leadership and multiple Congressional offices.
- **2022:** Featured in award-winning investigative report [Attacked Behind the Wheel](#) on sexual violence in trucking.
- **2024:** Featured in Emmy award-nominated feature length documentary "[Driver](#)".

National Transportation Leadership

Media, Research & Scholarly Citations

Quoted, interviewed, or consulted by:

- *Wall Street Journal, NPR, New York Times, Bloomberg, Fast Company, Ms. Magazine, Cosmopolitan, The Nation, Jezebel, Salon*
- Scholars and researchers from:
 - Texas A&M Transportation Institute
 - MIT
 - University of Kentucky
 - Yale University
- Chair, NCHRP Project 17-146 Integrating Large Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety into State Freight and Safety Planning
- Member, TRB AT012 Freight & Logistics Planning Committee
- Florida Freight Advisory Committee – (2022 -2024)
- FHWA National Coalition on Truck Parking Workgroups
- Subconsultant, NCHRP 08-141 Guidebook for Local Truck Parking Regulations

