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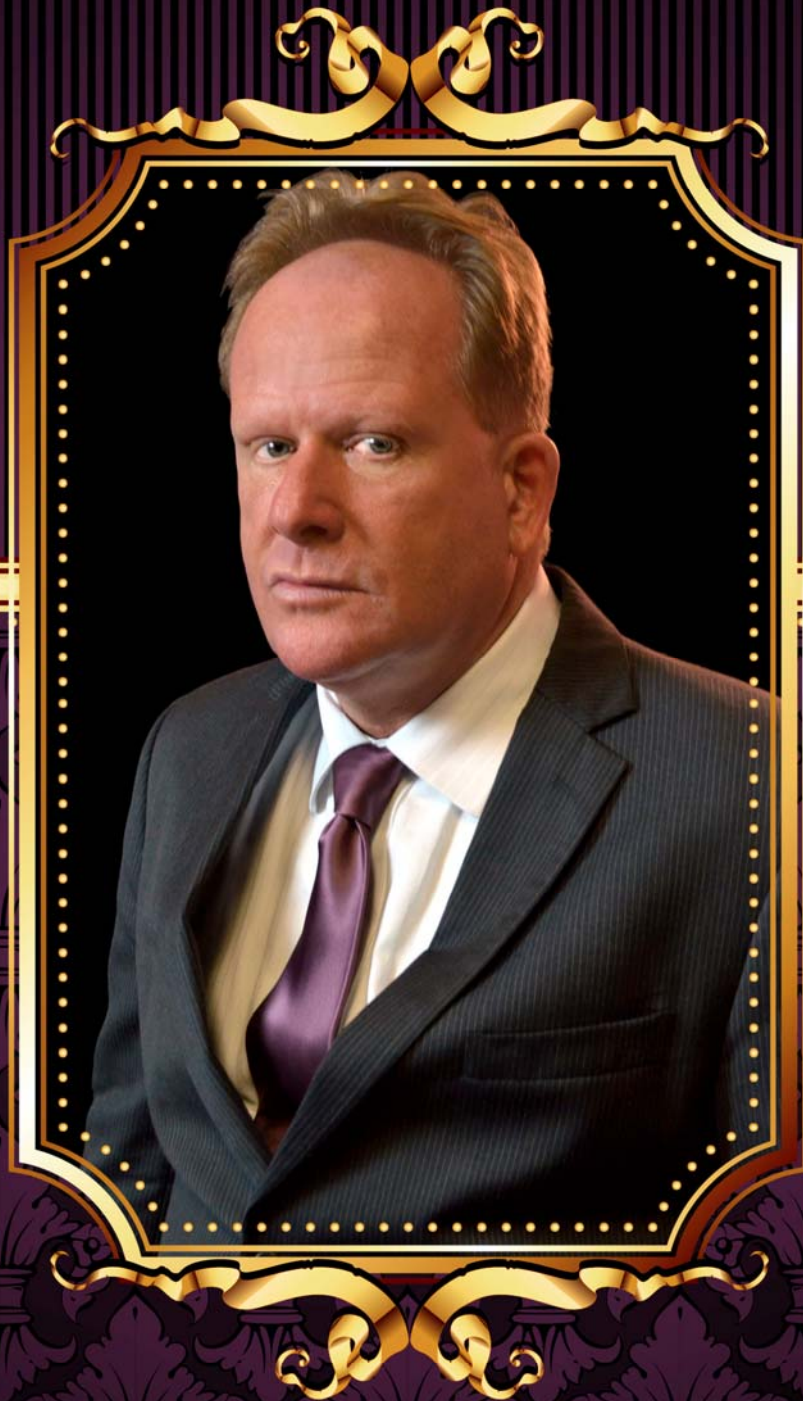
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Dean Tong



**Child Abuse Expert and
Forensic Consultant -
Helping Families in Crisis**



Dean Tong is doing a job he wishes he didn't have to do. In fact, he didn't even choose his calling. It chose him. Falsely accused of child abuse 30 years ago tossed him into the court system for a decade. Yet, Dean took the situation and made the best of it.

Although his original aspirations were to become a doctor, he was compelled to educate himself on all aspects of child abuse cases. He has a degree in psychology and the law, as well as a medical background - all of which have served him, and his clients well.

But he didn't stop there. He has helped multitudes of families deeply engrossed in child abuse cases. An avid proponent for children and families, he handles between 25 and 30 cases at a time. He has perfected the formula for solving such cases by digging until he finds the truth.

He has singularly changed the face of child abuse litigation in this country, but he says we have a long way to go. Although the statistics say sexual child abuse is down, the number of cases remains the same. The accused should be innocent until proven guilty; however, it is the other way around.

Dean Tong is a visionary who wants to change the system, but he's fighting an uphill battle. His message: "Kids are our most precious resource. That's really who we should be thinking of first and foremost."

Dean provided extraordinary insights on how his work impacts families in crisis.

Monica: Tell me a little bit about how you became involved in this particular field?

Dean: It was first hand experience, unfortunately. I was accused of molesting my three year old daughter 30 years ago in 1985. Actually, I was accused twice. The first charge was thrown out of court, but I guess the second one the court figured where there was smoke, there was fire. I was arrested in Jacksonville, Florida. I was facing 25 years-to-life in prison for something I did not do. I didn't have bail. I had no bail for two weeks, and then the evidence pretty much dissolved before the judge, and it went down to \$25,000. I bailed out and, mind you, that was a lot of money 30 years ago.

I was in court for 10 years; a decade, until 1994. I went through seven attorneys, seven psychologists, dehumanizing tests to prove my innocence and several

different courts. We actually filed a lawsuit, which we lost. My lawyer was a little inept on that one toward the end, but the criminal charges were dismissed.

The family court, even though the judge found my accusing wife who was behind my daughter, unfit, awarded her custody. It's the old mindset, "If we're going to make a mistake, we're going to do so on the side of caution, on the side of the child."

He said, she said, what a child said. It's my world today. It's what I do. It's the reason my website is almost up to 900,000 hits now. It's because of child victim hearsay.

Monica: What do you believe makes people accuse someone of something such as molestation which it's not true?

Dean: My case was set a precedent because it was before the time before most of these cases to jump into the national spotlight. It was 1987, in fact, when the first article written was called "The SAID Syndrome," which stood for Sexual Allegations in Divorce, where an accusatory parent behind a child could have a motive, method and opportunity and wield the child as a pawn, a weapon or a tool to gain equity at law in court.

Obviously, an unfair advantage, where a judge would say, "My God, these are just allegations, but they're obviously reprehensible allegations, and I just can't take the risk." It's all about the four-letter word "risk," and a judge just will not take the risk of putting a potential pedophile with a kid.

It became known as divorce's atomic bomb - the ultimate weapon and the tool of choice in family courts across America. As a professional, I've written three books. I have peer reviewed scientific journal articles. I'm on Wikipedia. I've done a lot of media on this topic since 1989. I went on to get my master's degree in child forensic studies and psychology, and law. I'm a certified forensic consultant. I've been hired in cases within all 50 states, and I've testified in 14 states as an expert witness.

But what I've seen since my appearance on *Dr. Phil* in September 2004 is a reverse backlash, where mothers are now being falsely accused of coaching kids to say that fathers are guilty of incest. Basically, the left hand doesn't know what the right one's doing. I say that because we have a well-meaning, well intentioned, but misguided system.



Social workers obviously have a lot of power in the field, as well as child protection service workers and the forensic interviewers that do the interview with these kids at child advocacy centers. That's my claim to fame, to critique what these interviewers are doing across America. Most of the training is done in Huntsville, Alabama.

The website for that is <http://www.nationalcac.org>. To the attorneys who zealously represent their clients, including guardians ad litem for the children, to the judges on the bench, it's a lack of knowledge in a specialized area of law and psychology, social science, mental health and behavioral science.

My job is to make sure the attorney applies proper science or proper law in court, that there's an intersection with science and the law in court. I'm not the guy who is well-liked, especially by the other side, usually, by the prosecution or Child Protective Services. But I'm not even well-liked by my client's own lawyer.

Why? Because I challenge attorneys. My degree is in psychology and the law, so I have an advanced knowledge in the law. Plus, I was admitted to medical school in 1983, so I also have a medical background. I worked in hospital labs for over 20 years.

Most of my cases are related to sexual abuse. I also get cases of shaken baby syndrome allegations, where a five-month-old or a one-year-old comes into the hospital and there are signs of bilateral retinal hemorrhage and subdural hematoma. The allegation is the boyfriend or the stepfather shook the kid because the kid was crying. They automatically determine it's shaken baby syndrome and a failure to protect by the mother. They place criminal charges against the alleged perpetrator - and we're off to the races.

Well, hang on. Are you considering alternative hypotheses? Are you considering other possible situations and conditions such as osteogenesis imperfecta? And it's the same thing when I get a sex abuse case. Are you considering anything else besides the kid saying, "Daddy touched my pee-pee"?

Maybe it's something. Maybe the kid is over-sexualized and he got that idea from another kid in school, or maybe you've got the wrong guy - mistaken identity. That's the problem I usually run into. It's called lack of source monitoring, which means the system has not done an

independent, objective investigation or examination of the origin or source of the alleged purported trauma based on the kid's memory. Most of these cases don't have physical medical findings. Only about five percent will have medical findings, so most of these cases are abject rampant hearsay.

Hearsay, by definition, is an out-of-court statement made for the truth of the matter asserted, legally speaking, generally inadmissible. Not so in a situation where a female is getting an order for protection for domestic violence or a child sex abuse case or a child physical abuse case, where a child's alleged abuse is by an alleged perpetrator. So it's up to me as an expert to determine if the hearsay was made spontaneously and has reliability and validity. I can give an opinion on that as an expert witness.

Monica: Forensics has been around, for a long time, but how has it improved over the years?

Dean: I was interviewed by an online website, eLearners.com, and I talked about this very issue and point. I think the media has done a great job at increasing the visibility of forensics. *CSI Miami*, *CSI New York*, and all these crime scene investigation shows, and *Forensic Files* and all these shows and TV programs, have really done a good job. I probably get an email every two weeks from a high school or college student wanting to pick my mind on the area of forensics. It's a field a lot of people have become enamored with.

Monica: Have you ever seen or worked with anyone or clients in the reverse, where the male or the father has accused the mother of sexually abusing the child?

Dean: Yes, I've got one from Texas. In fact, a 31 or 32-year-old mother was accused of sexually abusing her seven year old daughter. The father took out an *ex parte* restraining order against her. He made allegations that the daughter told him that the mother was allegedly involved in a sexual tryst with the daughter. And, of course, the judge believed the father. The kid's not going to be testifying in that situation, so they believed the father, and the mother's visitation rights were immediately cut off.

The problem here is that court is a marathon, not a sprint; and a lot of lawyers, with all due respect, play the "let's wait and see what happens" game. That's just a prescription for legal suicide, because what happens is the



system, when child protective services gets involved, immediately refers the kid into counseling. So now the child is being treated for a condition that she may or he may not have suffered from, but in fact is being treated for that same condition.

It's like treating a kid for cancer with chemotherapy or radiation before a lab or physician has diagnosed the kid with cancer. We're putting the kid into play therapy with anatomical dolls and puppets and drawings, and treating the kid as a *de facto* victim of sex abuse when no judge or jury has ruled on the merits of these allegations yet.

Monica: You say that we will not win the war against child abuse until we first win the battle against false accusations, but how do you control that?

Dean: You've got to go to Washington, D.C., Monica. It all started in 1974, a decade before I got involved, in a law known as the Mondale Act, after our former Vice-President Walter Mondale, also known as CAPTA, the Child Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Act. That's the law that gave Washington, D.C. the power to basically allow people to call in these allegations anonymously to toll-free hotlines, to be blanketed by immunity. Child Protective Services has full immunity. You can't sue the state in federal court for money. You'd have to sue the individual case workers, but you can't sue the state agency.

So, all the positive reinforcements are on the side of making the allegations. You know, the kid is basically chattel out there, because everybody's getting paid on the expense of investigating the charge of the allegation for the child, especially if the kid goes to foster care. If there's a juvenile court case and the child is ordered into foster care - now the foster family's getting a stipend from the government. Everybody's making money off the kid: therapists, lawyers, psychologists, doctors; everybody.

Monica: How does one who has experienced false allegations placed against them, whose had to go through this process of clearing their name - how do they really clear their name, or is their name ever really cleared?

Dean: Well, there's always going to be somebody, Monica, and I'm sure there's people out there on the Internet - I know there's feminists - who think that I did what I was accused of doing, because you become jaded, because this is such a heinous, reprehensible crime when it

does happen. I'm sure people think Woody Allen did what he was accused of doing and Michael Jackson did what he was accused of doing. I was at Michael's trial 10 years ago in 2005.

I was there in Santa Maria, California. If you go to my home page at <http://www.abuse-excuse.com>, I pretty much give a blueprint that the only way to clear your name with a judge or jury is to get a finding of fact conclusion of law from a judge or a jury acquittal. If you're arrested, you need to force the prosecution to do what's called *nol pros*, and dismiss it before it goes to trial. You have to take a battery of tests to prove you're not the monster you've been painted to be and impeach the allegations against you. In order to do that, you've got to have experts. In other words, a lawyer by him or herself is just not good enough.

I would like to talk a little about parental alienation, which I've seen a lot of in my cases, but it's not recognized by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, known as the *DSM*.

Monica: Sure.

Dean: Parental alienation is basically emotional, mental and psychological child abuse, and it goes part and parcel with these false allegations. Whether a mother is wielding a child as a pawn, weapon or tool, and falsely accusing a father of incest, or whether a father is doing the same to a mother, and alleging she's coaching the child to falsely accuse him that, in fact, he has molested the kid, either way it's parental alienation.

So, to get to the truth - and these are very complex cases - you have to roll up your sleeves and do the work. Trust me when I tell you that my average caseload is 1,000 to 3,000 pages of discovery.

This means legal documents, psychological reports and court transcripts. It's a nightmare, and files come to my home office and there are literally banker's boxes full.

In these times, people can't pay the same retainers I was making prior to the recession, back in 2007. They just don't have the resources.

I always run a caseload of 25 to 30 cases at any one time. The reality is; court is a marathon, not a sprint. My average case will last anywhere from three months to three years. I've got a lawsuit case going on in Alabama. We



filed that in November of 2012. That's over two and a half years ago.

Monica: For people who have been falsely accused, based on your experience working with them, in terms of their personal lives and even their professional lives – how have their lives been impacted by those types of accusations?

Dean: Well, as I call it in my book, a “fatherectomy” happens. Dads can be separated from their children in a New York minute, mothers the same, and obviously the extended family – grandparents, uncles, aunts and siblings. Everybody gets impacted by court orders. These cases are life altering, and they don't have to go to criminal court to be life altering.

A judge in a family court, a juvenile dependency court case, has the authority to sever your relationship with your kid right away, so it's very traumatic and it hits home very quickly. The entire family is affected by these court orders.

Monica: Are there any symptoms or something you can look out for to determine whether or not one parent or the other might be in the process of accusing you of such things?

Dean: Yes, this is all discussed in my books. This is the SAID, sexual allegations in divorce profile or syndrome, and for an accuser, for example, we have three types. You have your justified vindicator, which is just the vindictive person who's trying to get revenge. Maybe you were cheating on her or infidelity's going on, or maybe it's money issues, but she's going to get back at you and you've got this in text messages and emails. She's going to find a way to ruin your life, and this is the way she's doing it. That's the justified vindicator.

You've got your hysterical personality. This is the protective mother who, more likely than not, is trying to do the right thing by her kid because her kid actually tells her this is what Daddy or this is what Johnny did. But perhaps that mother has an undiagnosed, untreated mental health disorder.

And then you have your psychotic personality. I hardly ever find any mothers in my cases suffering from a psychotic personality. Usually, they're the justified vindicator or the hysterical personality.

The hysterical personality is probably the more common theme, where the mother's trying to be protective, but she's naïve, but then she gets a little irrational when the government says, “It's unfounded. Our findings are without foundation, without substance.” Is he going to be arrested and prosecuted? No. So the judge makes a finding of fact conclusion of law that he didn't do it, and it's the mother who won't take no for an answer.

She'll start shopping her kid to therapists and teachers and anybody who will believe her version that this is going on, because maybe the child is playing with herself, or she's having bed wetting, nightmare or flashback issues. All of those signs or symptoms could be indicative of sexual abuse. They could also be indicative of a thousand other things.

Monica: Who's paying for all of that therapy?

Dean: Well, if mother's shopping the child unilaterally, I'm assuming mothers are paying for that. If the couple's still married, she might be using his insurance to do so.

Obviously, if it's a family court situation. The judge is not going to hear child support and parenting time, and all these other issues, sexual abuse allegations, at different times. He's going to conglomerate, for purposes of judicial economy, the entire scenario in one kit and caboodle. What happens is the court will start ordering court appointed fiduciaries, experts that the court is going to appoint, and usually both parties have to split the cost evenly.

It could be a parenting coordinator. It could be a guardian at litem attorney. It could be a child custody evaluator. It could be a child sexual abuse investigator, and that gets expensive.

So now you've got this high conflict, divorce custody battle with child sexual abuse allegations involved and now you've really got a complex situation. It's just hard for everybody to figure this out. The \$64,000 question is why would the child say this is happening unless it happened, and how do you defend that?

There's a section in my book, and a section on my website on how to choose your attorney. Lawyers don't learn this in law school. Any lawyer who tells you they're trained and educated in child sex abuse cases in law school is lying to you. My books are in some law schools across



America, but lawyers have a hard time listening.

I have to have a marriage with the attorney. It has to be a marriage with me and the attorney that can only be induced

by the client.

The client has to make that happen. Again, my job as an expert is to make sure there's an intersection of science and the law. You've got to assume the lawyer is just a JD and they've passed the bar, or they're a member of the bar, or an officer of the court, but they have no real education or knowledge based on psychology, mental health, behavioral health, social science or psychology.

That's what I bring to the table, plus I have a legal and medical background for whatever the allegations in the case are involving, whether it's medical doctors, child protective services workers, social workers or therapists. Again, it's about getting the attorney to listen to me and to accept my recommendations and suggestions. Of course, I can't make the lawyer do anything. The lawyer has the power to try the case. I don't. I'm just a small piece of the puzzle. Ultimately, the case is usually won or lost via the attorney.

Monica: Over the years, and based on your experience, have you found that these cases are centered on children of a certain age range?

Dean: No. I have a lawsuit case going on in Alabama and the child in that case was two years, nine months old, and I've had cases where kids are up to age 17.

When kids age out and reach 18, if it's a child sex case, and then it's an adult who's making allegations from years before when she was a child.

That's more of the repressed memory or false memory syndrome variety, if in fact, it's false. It may not be. It may be valid and genuine, but on the side of reporting abuse, most of these child sex cases are delayed disclosures. In other words, they're not reported until after the fact. That's more the norm and the rule than the exception.

Monica: If you wait years later to report it, and let's say it is true, do the laws still apply at some level? What you can do to either rectify it, and/or punish the perpetrator if you wait years?

Dean: Yes. We can take Bill Cosby, for example. He's been accused of raping how many women?

Even though those were adult women, obviously if a case is started up against him in a court of law, he's facing not only prison time, even at his elderly age, he's facing civil rights lawsuits in the millions of dollars. It's the same thing here. There are statute of limitations that, for example, in my state, I believe it's 50 years. You can accuse somebody back to the 1970's in my state and obtain a successful prosecution.

This is an allegation that can be made from a long time ago. All you need is hearsay, as I mentioned earlier, abject rampant hearsay. I mean just basically, words. And you don't need physical forensic proof. As an expert, I try to inject as much forensics in the case as I can. I require my clients to go for testing, whether it's a man or a woman.

I usually suggest collateral experts besides myself to the lawyer, depositions are important, obviously. If we have allegations of bodily fluids or sexually transmitted diseases, that's going to incorporate even more forensics.

But now you get kiddie porn allegations. Obviously, you're going to need, for the defense, a computer defense expert. They're expensive. They're \$300 to \$400 an hour to try to impeach child porn proof against a client, so cases get expensive. If you're in family court, you get as much justice as you can afford.

If you're in criminal court or juvenile dependency court fighting against child protection, you can actually get my services for free, because the judge will order the state to pay my fees as an expert.

That's happened in many states for me, and I'm recognized at the JAC, which is the Judicial Administrative Commission, in Tallahassee, Florida, as an expert in every county for the state of Florida. So in any case where you're facing a loss of your freedom in prison or a loss of your parental rights, my services can be obtained at no cost to the client.



Monica: Do you think that the accusations of child abuse are maybe on a decline, or is it on the up rise?

Dean: The reports that I receive, Monica, and I get my data right from Washington, D.C., which is the National Child Abuse and Neglect data systems – the number of reports are remaining pretty constant at about three million a year. That’s for all types of child abuse or neglect: physical, sexual, psychological, Munchausen, failure to thrive, failure to protect, all of that.

The incidence of sexual abuse, according to Dr. David Finkelhor, who is out of the University of New Hampshire Research Lab, and he is the number one expert on child abuse statistics – according to his study from 1992 to 2006, a 15-year study, the incidence of sexual child abuse has gone down by 50 percent. So, while the number of reports is constant, incidences have gone down by one half. So what does that tell you? It should tell you the number of false allegations or unfounded allegations has increased.

If you look at the data – every state is required by law to report to Washington, D.C., their child abuse and neglect statistics for that state for that fiscal year. If you look at those statistics, it’s remaining pretty constant. The number of founded cases is 20 percent or less. It’s a high unfounded, without foundation, or without substance, rate. That’s not good.

To have five reports and only one of those five be founded and four be unfounded, means you’re protecting one kid down one end of the street and on the other end of the street there are four witch hunts being conducted. That’s just unacceptable. In fact, it’s outrageous.

Monica: I want to read something from your website that says: “When attempting to litigate your case in court in hopes of obtaining equity at law, please remember the five vowels of the alphabet.” ‘A’, is analyze, and ‘E’ is execute. ‘I’ is intimidate, ‘O’ is organize, and ‘U’ is utilize. You say “intimidate your adversary, leaving a paper trail second to none.” Can you talk briefly on that?

Dean: I like lawyers to over plead. What I mean by that is take depositions, file requests for admissions, interrogatories – motion after motion, petition after petition – to drown the other side in paperwork. Of course the court’s going to know we’re being overly litigious, and if we lose, we’re probably going to wind up paying

attorney’s fees for the other side. We get that, but you know that you’ve got a tiger by the tail on the other side. We’re not playing the “let’s wait and see what happens” game. We’re being proactive.

I get a lot of moms, especially on Facebook, who email me on social media. For me it’s a professional media. I’m on there, I’ve got a page on there and it’s a busy page. I’ve got almost 3,000 friends, most of whom I don’t know.

But the reality is, I get mothers who email me on Facebook saying, “Mr. Tong, I’ve lost my kid. I’m in a custody battle. Can you help me?” And, like I said earlier, in family court, unfortunately, no judge is going to order the state to pay my fees in that court. That’s a court where you get as much justice as you have resources.

Most people don’t have the resources. They’ve already spent \$25,000, \$30,000, even \$50,000 on lawyers. They might have gone through two, three, or four attorneys or psychologists or therapists, and all of a sudden they turn to me. So it’s important, if not crucial that it’s not just what you know, it’s who you know, that you pick the right players out of the gate quickly. You can’t be throwing darts at Lawyers.com and the Yellow Pages to pick your attorney.

I have a blueprint for choosing a lawyer in a case, whether it’s criminal, family, juvenile court or a lawsuit case; whatever. And while a lawyer knows everything about me as an expert, I know nothing about the lawyer. I tell my clients, or potential clients, you’ve got to quiz your attorney, and here are the questions that I would suggest you ask the lawyer.

Monica: Let’s say that a circumstance comes about because there’s an error or a mistake in judgment with family services once they visited the home. They’ve looked at things and they may say, “Well, there is something here,” or they didn’t do a thorough job in checking, and you now have that mistake or error that was made on the part of someone else.

How can the person who is now experiencing that false accusation maneuver from there, when you have an agency that’s accusing you, versus the other parent accusing you?

Dean: Whether it’s an expert like myself, or a psychologist or psychiatrist who has written a report that basically exposes the mistake and maybe clears your name



by proxy, the accused, or whether it's a lawyer who subpoenaed the policy and training manuals, or the standard operating procedure manual from child protective services and finds that they did not

adhere to their own published guidelines – when that mistake is gleaned, you can file a lawsuit.

I don't just help clients clear their names and put their families back together and keep them out of jail, I also help clients sue. These cases are very costly. My case cost \$150,000, just to clear my name, and I lost my relationship with my kids, even though we paid \$150,000, and that was 30 years ago. That amount of money today would probably be closer to \$500,000 today.

Most parents will squander five or six figures to litigate these cases, but they may not be any better off now than they were three years ago.

As soon as you learn of mistakes and you want to sue, again, now you're talking a civil rights lawyer. Those lawyers are even more infrequent than your family court and criminal court lawyers. There are a million lawyers out there, all of whom would be too eager to take your retainer check, but won't admit to you that the case is too arduous for them or that it's over their head.

Monica: In some cases does the parent who was originally accused of child molestation but was later found not guilty; can they reestablish relationships with their child or children?

Dean: It depends how far along the case is, Monica. Usually that depends on age, so if we're talking about kids who are four to 10, usually my answer is unequivocally yes, we can successfully reestablish and reunify the accused parent and the kid or kids. When the kids get to be teeny boppers, post-adolescents, it makes it more difficult. Why? Because the parental alienation has now set in.

So now the targeted parent, the accused, and the alienated parent, the accusatory parent behind the kid or kids, has projected enough pathology onto the kids where recognition memory has set in, and the kids really are rejecting the targeted parent. They want nothing to do with the accused.

And that could be not just the maternal side or paternal side, or maternal grandparents or paternal grandparents. It could be therapists also exacerbating that problem and pouring gasoline on the fire by basically saying, "This is the bad guy. We're treating you for this," like it's a done deal, even though, we might not have a legal court order that the accused is guilty.

Yet the therapist is using cognitive behavioral therapy, of which there are two types: trauma-focused and abused-focused, and the kid is actually believing in their heart of hearts that this is what happened and they say, "I don't want to see the accused" – my father or my mother. This is what's going on. The longer you wait, the worse it is.

Monica: It's really complicated and involved, but for those who have to go through it, it's even worse for them.

Dean: Yes, it's literally a nightmare and surreal. You have to have professionals that know what they're doing. If you don't extinguish the flames quickly, this becomes an inferno.

Monica: Sure, but in a case like that, what do you really call "quickly," because doesn't it take time to get things moving?

Dean: Quickly? I would say, three months. If I'm hired early enough in the process, where my name is bandied to the other side in court documents, and that's where I talk about the intimidation in the AEIOU. I'm an intimidator. Instead of being intimidated, I become the intimidator, and now the government knows I'm involved. The prosecutor doesn't want to go through me. They don't want to cross me. The CPS counsel doesn't want to cross me. The mother's attorney doesn't want to cross me.

I had a recent case in New York that settled. The mother of an accused father paid me a retainer fee before Christmas 2013, and she said, "Dean, keep the money because the mother's lawyer just called my son's lawyer and they settled out of court. My son has his visitation rights. You just saved me \$20,000 on attorney's fees in litigation and I might not have gotten the court order we just got. So, thank you for doing nothing."

It's just the person I've become, and I like to think of myself as "the guy" in these cases. There's everybody else and then there's me.



Monica: There are other people in your niche that do what you do.

Dean: Oh, yes, everybody has competition in America, whatever job they have.

I am kind of involved in a niche area, so I don't have a lot of competition. I guess I'm unique in the fact that my educational level and my expertise level is in psychology and the law, although I can't give a legal opinion; I can only give a psychological opinion.

But the fact is that I'm a victim, too. So, everybody who calls me, I can say I have walked in your shoes. That separates me from everybody else.

Yes, I have a published peer reviewed scientific journal article to my name, but, no, I don't have 200 articles to my name. But it is what it is, and you either choose an academic or you choose somebody who's been in the trenches for 30 years.

Monica: That's true, it's always better if you can find someone who's gone through the experience or the problem that you're looking to get solved.

Dean: I work cases in one of two capacities: I'm either a consulting expert or I'm a testimonial expert. So, in other words, I'm going to be guiding the attorney to the Promised Land and victory, or I'm going to be getting up there on the stand and giving an opinion – one way or the other. I usually can't do both. I was recently allowed to do both in a case from Tennessee, over the objection of a CPS attorney, by the judge, but that's clearly rare. Usually I'm only allowed to do one or the other.

So, again, having that marriage with the attorney is important.

Monica: You do excellent work.

Dean: Well, thank you. I don't win all my cases. People have to understand you're not going to find an expert or a lawyer that has a 100 percent track record, but I like to think I win more than I lose.

In criminal child sex cases, one thing a man has to be privy to, because it's usually the man being accused more so than the woman, is that the prosecution is going to try to force him to plea bargain. That's the norm. I would say

95 percent of these criminal child sex cases across America involve a plea bargain. Your lawyer is going to tell you, "Okay, you hired Dean Tong, so you're basically pegging the jury to believe Dean Tong over the child."

And that's what it comes down to. It comes down to the kid's word versus my word as an expert and whether the jury is going to listen to me and to the science and facts that I'm articulating, or listen to the emotions and tears coming down the cheeks of the child, because I'm not saying all kids are lying or all kids are mistaken. The kids can be sexually abused and their tears can be genuine, and then you can have kids that have crocodile tears.

Getting to the truth is difficult in these cases, so I try to inject as much science and forensics as I can to get to that truth.

It's really disgusting that I have to do what I do, to be honest with you. There shouldn't be the need for Dean Tong or his services, but there is. And that, in and of itself, should raise the eyebrows in Washington, D.C.

Monica: Thank you again for the interview opportunity. I'd like for you to close the interview.

Dean: All I can say for people who are thinking about going down this road, if you can avoid this high conflict, protracted custody road with abuse allegations, please avoid it, mediate your case, settle out of court, and have a powwow with the adversarial spouse to try to settle this, really, in the best interests of your children.

The law has the best interests of the children for a reason. You don't want any trauma resting upon the kids. Kids are our most precious resource. That's really who we should be thinking of first and foremost.

If you have to go down this road, Google my name and you'll probably get about a million hits on me. There are other folks that try to do what I do, and you're welcome to hire anybody, but you may want to at least have a powwow with me over the phone before choosing your expert. ♦