

# From An Attorney's Perspective

## AT A GLANCE

A twenty-year FOP Legal Defense Plan Attorney shares his perspective on the benefits of being an FOP Legal Defense Plan member.

## OVERVIEW

Scott Wood is a Tulsa-based attorney and former police officer with more than 20 years of experience representing FOP members through the Legal Defense Plan. Over the course of his career, he has handled approximately 2,000 Plan-supported cases, ranging from administrative defense and use-of-force reviews to complex, high-profile criminal trials.

With firsthand knowledge of law enforcement and the legal system, Scott brings critical insight, urgency, and credibility to each case he takes on. Whether he's preparing a first-year officer for an Internal Affairs interview or defending a veteran officer in court, his work illustrates how the Plan empowers members to respond strategically and with confidence—often under immense pressure. In one landmark case, the Plan covered over \$420,000 in legal expenses, helping secure a full acquittal for a Tulsa officer charged with first-degree manslaughter.

Scott's long-standing relationship with the FOP Legal Defense Plan and commitment to protecting those who serve continue to make him a trusted advocate and a powerful example of the Plan's value in action.



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## ATTORNEY PROFILE

Attorney	Scott Wood
Location	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Years with the Legal Defense Plan	20+
Cases Handled	2,000
Specialties	Use of force, search and seizure, administrative defense
Notable Results	\$420K+ in legal defense support for Officer Shelby case

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## PLAN IN ACTION

One of Scott's most notable cases involved Tulsa Police Officer Betty Shelby, who was charged with first-degree manslaughter in 2016 following an officer-involved shooting. With support from the FOP Legal Defense Plan, Scott and co-counsel Shannon McMurray were able to build a robust legal defense that included four expert witnesses. The Plan covered more than \$420,000 in legal expenses. Officer Shelby was acquitted in May 2017.

**"No other plan out there will go the distance like the FOP Legal Defense Plan," Scott said.**

In another case, Scott helped a newer officer who was wrongfully terminated after mishandling abandoned ammunition based on poor direction from an employer. After ten months, the officer was reinstated with back pay.

**"Getting an officer's job back after an unfair termination is one of the most satisfying things a lawyer can experience," Scott said.**

## BENEFITS OF LEGAL DEFENSE

### 1 Rapid Response When It Counts

Experienced attorneys like Scott are available around the clock, ensuring officers receive immediate legal support the moment an issue arises. Whether it's a use-of-force incident or an IA interview, quick action can make all the difference.

### 2 Coverage That Doesn't Quit

The FOP Legal Defense Plan covers what is needed for a proper defense—including expert witnesses, trial preparation, and high-cost defense strategies—with no hourly caps when using a Plan attorney. That type of support can be the deciding factor in complex, high-stakes cases.

### 3 Preparedness That Pays Off

From new officers to seasoned professionals, every member benefits from knowing they're protected. Legal defense coverage offers more than financial relief—it provides peace of mind, stability, and the confidence to do the job without fear of facing a legal crisis alone.