

Alan Côté
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Expert Witness: Bicycling and Bicycles

Summary of Expertise for Bicycles & Bicycling

More than 30 years of experience in cycling as a product tester, engineer, journalist, elite competitor, announcer at international races, and event organizer. Retained in cases for cycling-related lawsuits since 2008, both by plaintiff and defense. Subject matter expertise spans:

1. Bicycle assembly / maintenance procedures, product design, mechanical failures, and industry standards of practice
2. Crash analysis, including the use of performance metrics such as power, cadence, speed, GPS, more; crash-site and road condition analysis
3. Event safety, organizational practices for competitive and recreational events
4. Intellectual Property. May be considered a Person of Ordinary Skill in the Art for bicycle product design; Registered Patent Agent.

Expert Witness Experience

- Retained in more than 50 cases for cycling-related lawsuits since 2008, both for plaintiff and defense. All cases settled pre-trial.
- Defense parties I have opined for range from USA Cycling to manufacturers including [Campagnolo](#) – spanning fatalities and catastrophic injuries to intellectual property disputes
- Preliminary review with attorneys in more than 20 additional cases
- Case work has included: analysis of bicycles and mechanical systems; crashsite investigation; roadway analysis; traffic factors; standards of practice for mechanics/retail service; human & age-related factors; market analysis; intellectual property disputes; safety standards for events; more.

Employment

Green Mountain Innovations LLC, 2001 – Present

Registered Patent Agent and Business Principal

- Patentability and commercialization assessments
- Prior art searches and market analysis
- Patent application preparation and prosecution, US and International (PCT)
- Technologies have included: bicycles, snowsports, injection molding systems, digital image processing, bio-energy generation, solar power, sporting goods, general consumer goods, food packaging, commercial food processing, automotive equipment, cellular technology, medical devices, tools, more.
- Response and defense strategy to allegations of patent infringement including claims analysis, prosecution history, prior art – in conjunction with outside counsel
- Determination of assignment of relevant prior art while protecting client identity
- Clients include businesses ranging from startups to multi-billion dollar corporations, individual inventors, academia

President, CC Kinetics Inc., 1997 – 2013

Created and led a partnership of three entrepreneurs in patenting bicycle performance monitoring technology and licensing worldwide intellectual property rights to Polar Electro OY (Finland). *Personal accomplishments in this endeavor:*

- Identified market opportunity for a new product
- Created a business model: invent, patent, and license
- Mandated design constraints based on bettering existing products
- Led the engineering of patented technology, comprising variable reluctance sensors paired to digital signal processing
- Solved complex signal conditioning obstacles by creating predictive filtering algorithms
- Secured intellectual property rights (with outside patent counsel)
- Selected target licensees for patent and technology
- Negotiated/drafted material transfer agreement and patent assignment contract
- Enforced contract terms (annual minimums, IPR policing, etc.)
- Drafted contract amendments to reflect product and market changes
- Managed two partners (one EE, one software engineer) and an S Corporation

Freelance Writer/Editor, 1992 – 2012

Bylined more than a dozen national magazines. Articles included technical product reviews, government policy analysis, specialty features, columns on health, nutrition, and fitness, etc.. One-on-one interviews included Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley Jr., Washington D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, Congressman James Oberstar, sports icon and doper Lance Armstrong. Published critical reviews of bicycles and accessories, including assembly and testing of 200+ bicycles.

- Contributing Writer (1998-2012) to *Bicycling* magazine, the world's largest circulation cycling magazine. Credentialed journalist at World Championships and other international events.
- Contributing Writer (1994-1998) to *Bicycle Guide* magazine
- Contributing Writer (1993-1995) to *Winning Bicycle Racing* magazine.
- Freelanced (1991-2012) for at least a dozen other publications, with my writing appearing in *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *The Robb Report*, *Mountain Bike Action*, *Mountain Bike*, *VeloNews*, *Bicycle Retailer*, *AMC Outdoors*, *Outdoor Action*, *Snow Country*, and others.

Product Manager, Alden Laboratories, Boulder CO, 2/91 – 10/93

Responsible for all aspects of a bicycle saddle product category for parent company, a producer of viscous liquid materials. Drove new product development; proctored division's financial growth; liaised with Taiwan-based vendors; supervised and managed a team of 10 in-house and field sales personnel.

Education and Credentials

BS, Mechanical Engineering; University at Buffalo (SUNY)

Registered Patent Agent. Admitted to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Seminar Organizer/Moderator, Patent Law Reform and Job Creation in Vermont.

Conceived of event to address regional business community; procured corporate sponsorship funding; invited & secured the country's leading speakers on intellectual property law, Senator Patrick Leahy and US Patent & Trademark Office Director David Kappos; led and moderated discussion. Made CLE credits available for attorney attendees. May 2010, Burlington, Vermont.

Board member, *InventVermont*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit group, 2009-2011

Board member, *Art Longsjo Foundation*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit group, 2012-2018

Board member, *Catamount Outdoor Family Center*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit group, 2018-Present

Patents

Inventor in four patents for the engineering and design of bicycle products including braking systems, power-measuring devices.

Co-inventor, US Patent # 6,199,021 (with foreign patents)

Co-inventor, US Patent # 6,356,848 (with foreign patents)

Co-inventor, US Patent # 8,646,796

Inventor, US Patent # 8,757,561

Bicycle Events

Race Director, Longsjo Classic, 2013-2019

- Managed 15 days of competitive cycling over six years, in city downtowns of Fitchburg, Leominster, Worcester MA.
- Lead all pre-event planning for five-person non-profit Foundation board
- Supervised on race days: 20-25 paid event staff, 10-12 police officers, emergency services, DPW, venue safety infrastructure, 100+ kids' fun race participants
- Event on USACycling's National Calendar, 2nd oldest bicycle race in the US
- \$60,000 - \$90,000 annual budget; 500-900 racer entries / year

Race Director, Sprague Brook Park Cyclocross, Glenwood, NY. 2004-2005

Race Director, Great Lakes Cycling Classic, East Aurora, NY. 1998-2002

Lead Announcer at 100+ competitive and recreational cycling events, including UCI (internationally inscripted) road, mountain bike, cyclocross races; National Racing Calendar finals (road), ProXCT finals (MTB), US Cyclocross National Championships, regional/local events, gravel rides. 2004-present.

Elite-Level competitive cyclist for 12+ years, racing against Olympians and professionals. Silver medalist, National Collegiate Cycling Championship, 1988. Over

900 lifetime days of racing from 1981-present. Category 2 road & cyclocross racer, Category 1 MTB. Competed in at least one sanctioned race per year 1981 – present. Have pedaled 150,000+ lifetime miles.

Publications, 2007-Present

Bicycle Retailer (website and print)

- *Gamache Cyclery Closes Doors After 95 Years in Business* (2009)
- *No Easy Way To Figure A Shop's Sales Price* (2010)
- *The Robert Report: New Owner Moves Terry Bicycle Forward* (2010)
- *Patent Watch: Shimano technology monitors component wear with AI* (2020)
- *Patent Watch: Yamaha Applies For Patent on Dedicated E-Bike Frame* (2020)
- *Patent Watch: Trek patents rim-development method* (2020)
- *Patent Watch: Two Companies Offer Wireless Shifter Adapters* (2020)
- *Patent Watch: Where cycling apparel and tech meet* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: Fox looks to add crank sensor to Live Valve system* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: Pedal Powermeters* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: Gravel Riding Brings Back Suspension Stems* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: Companies Jockey for Rights to Smart Bike Technology & Virtual Cycling* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: Trek, Canyon & others patent bike boxes for the D2C market* (2021)
- *Patent Watch: 2021 Bicycle Industry Patent Review*(2022)
- *Patent Watch: SmartBikes* (2022)
- *Patent Watch: Patents and The Bike Biz, a Love-Hate Relationship* (2022)
- *Patent Watch: MIPS Helmet* (2022)
- *Patent Watch: The Rise of Design Patents* (2022)
- *Patent Watch: Do Expiring Patents Let New Products Flourish ?*(2022)
- *Patent Watch: The Global Web of Bike and Patents* (2023)
- *Patent Watch: Shimano Led Industry 2022 Patent Applications* (2023)
- *Patent Watch: Rear Derailleur Mounting Compatibility* (2023)
- *Patent Watch: [Mavic's minimalist motor has long patent trail](#)* (2023)

- *Campagnolo just filed a bunch of new wireless shifting patents (2023)*

CyclingTips.com

- *Radical SRAM crankset patent incorporates three rotating derailleurs (2020)*
- *Patent filing reveals details of Campagnolo's new Ekar 13-speed cassettes (2020)*
- *Patents Suggest Next Gen Shimano Dura-Ace di2 Will Go Wireless (2020)*
- *Is Campagnolo Going Wireless? (2021)*
- *Are Cleat-Based Powermeters on the Way? (2021)*

VeloNews

- *Fitchburg-Longsjo Classic organizers cancel race, citing low registration (2012)*
- *Coming Soon: A Dropper Stem From Shimano? (2020)*

Bicycling Magazine

- *On The Fly Fixes (2011)*
- *Pedal for the People (2011)*
- Authored Numerous “Master It” columns (2008-2010)
- Authored Numerous “Best Advice” columns (2008-2010)
- *How to Keep Your Cool When Riding in the Heat (2010)*
- *This is Your...Ideal Mount (2010)*
- *Break Wind (2010)*
- *Get to Know Your Saddle's Anatomy (2010)*
- *Off-Roaders With Your Road Bike Five Techniques For Handling Your Skinny-Tire Bike on Knobby-Tire-Friendly Surfaces (2008)*
- *SAVE and SPLURGE Use These Smart Strategies When Buying Parts and Accessories (2008)*
- *The Saddle How To Pick The Right Seat for Your Seat (2008)*
- *...Helmet The Best Lid Isn't The Most Expensive One; It's The One That Fits Just Right (2008)*
- *Sunglasses Before You Drop A Pretty Penny On a Pair of Shades, Learn What To Look For Beyond Appearance (2007)*
- *Skull Savers Wearing A Helmet Can Make The Difference Between Shrugging Off a Crash and Having to Relearn the Alphabet (2007)*
- *A Simple Singlespeed Conversion (2007)*
- *Road Shoes Picking The Right Pair Will Help You Transfer More Power To Your Pedals (2007)*
- *Work Here Now (2007)*
- *Bike Washing Arsenal (2007)*

- *Charity Ride Goes Pro* (2007)

Red Kite Prayer

- *The Ride You Never Want to Take* (2015)
- *Armstrong to WWF?* (2015)
- *Why Is Tour of the Battenkill So Popular?* (2012)
- *Gear Restrictions Coming for Pro Tour?* (2012)

CyclingNews.com

- *A Major Monument* (2008)

Best Life

- *Buy This Not That. Summer Cruiser: Trek Lime Lite vs. LandRider Elite* (2008)

Omitted for brevity, several hundred bylined articles prior to the above, 1991 – 2006, in publications including: *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Bicycling*, *Bicycle Guide*, *Bicyclist*, *Winning*, *The Robb Report*, *Mountain Bike Action*, *Mountain Bike*, *VeloNews*, *Bicycle Retailer*, *AMC Outdoors*, *Outdoor Action*, *Snow Country*, *Consumer Guide Best Buys*, and others.