

**FACULTY**  
**2020 FOSSCR CONFERENCE**

Hilton New Orleans Riverside 2 Poydras St, New Orleans, LA 70130  
September 25 through September 26, 2020

FOSSCR is grateful to the talented faculty that committed their time and efforts to our conference this year:

**Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Director, Health Department, New Orleans, Louisiana.** Dr. Avegno is a New Orleans native who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Arts in Sociology from Tulane University and her MD from LSU School of Medicine – New Orleans. She completed her residency at LSU/Charity Hospital Emergency Medicine and joined the faculty at both LSU and Tulane shortly after graduation. As an academic faculty member, Dr. Avegno served as Associate Residency Director and Director of Undergraduate Emergency Medicine Education for both LSU and Tulane Medical Schools.

In 2017, Dr. Avegno established the Division of Community Health Relations & Engagement in the LSU Section of Emergency Medicine, and as its director worked with institutional, governmental, and other community organizations to facilitate innovative programming, interdisciplinary partnerships, and improved population health outcomes. In 2018, she was appointed as the Director of the Health Department for the City of New Orleans, where she manages a dedicated team of public health professionals in addressing critical health needs for the community. Dr. Avegno currently leads the City's public health response to COVID-19 and developed one of the country's first mobile community based testing strategy and program, with intentional core focus on equity and access. Honors include being named to Gambit Weekly's "40 Under 40," an Essence "Essential Hero," a New Orleans Magazine "Top Doctor," and several other leadership and teaching awards.

**Paul Burkhalter, Morgan and Weisbrod, Dallas, Texas.** Mr. Burkhalter is the managing partner of Morgan & Weisbrod LLP in Texas. He formerly served on the NOSSCR Board of Directors representing the Fifth Circuit. He also worked for the Social Security Administration's Office of General Counsel. Mr. Burkhalter graduated from New York University School of Law and has an undergraduate degree from Baylor University. Mr. Burkhalter is Board Certified in Social Security Disability Advocacy by the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification. Paul has two sons, 17 and 22, and a wonderful wife who is a primary care doctor. His older son is attending Louisiana State University. Geaux Tigers!

**Todd S. Capielano, M.Ed., LRC, CRC, LPC, CLCP, CCM, Stokes & Associates, New Orleans, Louisiana & Houston, Texas.** Mr. Capielano is a Licensed and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor who has practiced in the private sector of vocational rehabilitation for over 34 years. He has been in the field of vocational rehabilitation for over 34 years, specializing in vocational evaluations, labor market research, job placement and career counseling. He has served as a vocational expert for the Social Security Administration, Office of Hearings Operations since 1992. Additionally, Mr. Capielano has been accepted as a vocational expert since 1989 in various Federal, State, Civil and Judicial District Courts, and before Administrative Law Judges for State and Longshore Harbor Workers Compensation Act claims. Mr. Capielano also serves as an expert in Life Care Planning where he has been certified by ICHCC since 2015.

Mr. Capielano is a member of professional organizations including the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, the Louisiana Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, and the American Association of Christian Counselors. He has served as Board Member at Large, President, and Past-President of IARP-LA. He received his Master's degree in Counseling in 1992 from the University of New Orleans and his Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Louisiana State University Medical Center, School of Allied Health Professions in 1986. He holds national certifications as Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certified Case Manager and Certified Life Care Planner. Mr. Capielano specializes in the areas of life care planning, vocational assessment, wage and earning capacity analysis, job placement and labor market research as well as career counseling. He has taught college level counseling classes at Bethesda Bible College as an adjunct faculty member. Additionally, Mr. Capielano is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in marriage and family counseling. He is the proud "Poppy" of three beautiful grandchildren, Olivia, Dawson and Juliet.

**Kate Cowhey, M.D., George Washington University, Psychiatry Resident, Washington, D.C.** Dr. Cowhey is a third year psychiatry resident at George Washington University. She completed undergraduate training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and received her Masters of Neuroscience at Tulane University, and Medical School at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. At her medical school, Kate co-founded the Latino Health Scholars Program and served as the Community Service Chair of the Spanish in Medicine Student Interest Group as well as volunteering in a Spanish speaking community free clinic, and completed a volunteer project in India providing health screenings for Tibetan refugees.

In residency, Dr. Cowhey has served as co-chair of the Resident Retreat Committee and is pursuing her Masters of Public Health degree in Health Policy. Clinical interests include child and adolescent psychiatry, with an emphasis in early childhood, school-based mental health programs, and community psychiatry.

**Angela Davis-Morris, Davis-Morris Law Firm, P.A., Hattiesburg, Mississippi.** Angela Davis-Morris is the managing attorney with Davis-Morris Law Firm, P.A. in Hattiesburg, MS. She has been practicing Social Security disability law for 28 years and has represented thousands of Social Security disability claimants. Ms. Davis-Morris is a Past-President of the Board of Directors for both the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) and the Fifth Circuit Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (FOSSCR); she is a regular speaker and presenter on various Social Security disability topics; is a frequent guest attorney on radio and television shows; and has published several articles directed at educating the public on disability matters.

Ms. Davis-Morris was listed in the "Top 50 Leading Attorneys in Mississippi" and was named in the "Top 50 Business Women in Mississippi." In her spare time, Ms. Davis-Morris serves as the Executive Director of Hub City Service Dogs, Inc. (a non-profit organization that offers custom-trained service dogs to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities). She is an avid dog-lover and has a rescue lab-mix, Trace, that provides the family entertainment.

**Monica Ferraro, Workers Compensation LLC., Metairie, Louisiana.** Ms. Ferraro was educated in Italy and obtained her degree from the University of Padua, an internationally recognized center for legal study that has been around since 1222. After moving to New Orleans Ms. Ferraro has continually and successfully represented Social Security Disability and SSI Clients in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. She has represented disability and SSI claimants at all levels of the administrative process including thousands of Social Security hearings and federal court appeals. Ms. Ferraro also represents plaintiffs in short and long term disability claims.

Within the local community Ms. Ferraro has been involved with the Humane Society of Louisiana and The Pro Bono Project.

**William Fouché, Law Office of William Fouché, Dallas, Texas.** After handling complex litigation for many years as a partner in the Dallas office of Strasburger & Price, L.L.P., Mr. Fouché established his own appellate practice in 2002. He now devotes as much of his time as possible to assisting individuals whose claims for disability benefits have, in his judgment, been improperly denied by the Social Security Administration. He does this by appealing those claims directly to Federal court. He has handled appeals on a "pro hac vice" basis in numerous courts around the country, including Federal courts in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, and Missouri. Mr. Fouché is a frequent lecturer on effective advocacy in federal court.

**Benjamin Misko, Law Offices of Benjamin Misko, New Orleans, Louisiana.** Ben Misko graduated from Tulane Law School in 2005, created his own firm in 2009, and has practiced Social Security Disability almost exclusively since 2013. His office offers Pro Bono representation to Social Security beneficiaries in West Virginia and Kentucky who were remanded because they were represented by Eric Conn. He was also selected as a mentor for other attorneys attempting to offer representation after the Conn disaster. He has lectured and presented Social Security topics for organizations including the New Orleans Bar Association, and NOSSCR's annual conference.

**Barbara R. Silverstone, Executive Director of NOSSCR, Englewood, New Jersey.** Ms. Silverstone has led NOSSCR as the Executive Director since 2013. Prior to that, she was the Staff Attorney at NOSSCR for 21 years. She received her J.D. from Benjamin N Cardozo School of Law in New York City and B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. Ms. Silverstone is admitted to practice in the state and district courts of New York and New Jersey and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Silverstone is a frequent speaker at NOSSCR conferences and at other Social Security seminars. She has written several chapters in Matthew Bender's Social Security Practice guide and numerous articles on Social Security disability issues. Ms. Silverstone serves on the boards of the Social Security Section and the SDNY Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and is a current trustee at Beth Am Temple.

**Matthew Stewart, Kraft & Associates, P.C., Dallas, Texas.** Mr. Stewart is an equity partner with Kraft & Associates. He has decades of experience representing claimants in their claims for Social Security benefits. Additionally, he is a member of the National Organization for Veterans' Advocates (NOVA) and admitted to the Federal District Courts for the Northern and Eastern District of Texas, as well as the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Mr. Stewart received his J.D. from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. He is a frequent lecturer and presenter on Social Security law issues.

Mr. Stewart has also had his work included in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum research collection. He is a lifelong struggling guitar player and golfer.

**Suzette Tagesen Murphy, Associate, Workers Compensation LLC., Metairie, Louisiana.** Suzette Tagesen Murphy is a member of Workers' Compensation, LLC. She earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of New Orleans and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans. She has represented Social Security claimants since 2004 and expanded her practice to include state and federal workers' compensation cases in 2005. Suzette has represented over 1,000 injured or disabled workers in Louisiana and Mississippi. Suzette regularly speaks at Louisiana State Bar Association CLEs and serves on the board of Animal Adoption Society.

**Host and Moderators:**

The Law Offices of Matt Greenbaum has appreciated the opportunity to host and moderate FOSSCR 2020. Moderators include managing partners Vanessa Greenbaum and Wiebke Breuer, and attorneys Charmaine Sykes-Hilton, Josh Wexler and Clara Van Horn. We wish to extend a very special thanks to the Business Manager of LOMG, Madeline Greenbaum, for all of her work and creativity in overcoming the many unforeseen challenges in hosting FOSSCR this year.