

**SUSANNAH WALTER POLJAK**  
**820 Slattery Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71104**  
**(318) 675-9142(c)**  
**Susannah71@gmail.com**

**EXPERIENCE**

**NORTHWEST LOUISIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY SUMMIT**

January-November 2019

*Chair*

Collaborate with Step Forward and the Community Foundation to create a policy summit to educate business and governmental leaders on infant to 5 year old brain development and the necessity of education and care of very young children as well as the effects that education or the lack thereof has on the greater community. Research and find speakers for meeting; weekly meeting to develop strategies for and creation of summit.

**CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

January 2015-December 2018

*Member for District 4*

Responsible for oversight of the Caddo Parish School system, which includes 61 elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Responsibilities include bi-monthly meetings to discuss and vote on budgetary matters, discuss and vote on district educational and administrative policies, hear student disciplinary appeals, and review pending legal matters.

**COOK, YANCEY, KING & GALLOWAY**

January 2014-April 2015

**BLANCHARD, WALKER, O'QUINN & ROBERTS**

January 2008-April 2012

**BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN, CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ**

March 2007-December 2007

**LEMLE & KELLEHER, LLP**, New Orleans, LA

October 2003-March 2007

**STROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN LLP**, New York, NY

January 2001-January 2003

**COUDERT BROTHERS**, San Francisco and Palo Alto, CA

October 1998-December 2000

*Litigation Associate/Of Counsel*

Substantive areas of experience include railroad litigation, hospital litigation, trust litigation, banking litigation, employment litigation, environmental litigation, complex contract litigation, antitrust, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and patent litigation, bankruptcy, and general commercial law. Representation of wide variety of individual and corporate clients including railroads, banks, consumer electronics, consumer products, energy and telecom companies, insurance companies, and entrepreneurs. Involved in all phases of civil litigation in federal and state courts. Responsibilities include: developing trial strategy, preparing direct and cross examinations, preparing jury instructions, working with damages experts, and interviewing and preparing witnesses for both trials and depositions. Experience taking and defending depositions; drafting both trial and appellate briefs; arguing motions; negotiating and documenting settlement; communicating with opposing counsel and clients; and supervising junior associates. Representative matters include:

- defending Trustee of Louisiana spendthrift trust against creditor action
- defending casino against various employment claims
- representing railroad in all aspects of litigation, including CERCLA, preemption, and personal injury
- defending bank against suit for civil conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty
- defending former Big Four accounting firm partner against allegations of fraud, civil conspiracy, and breach of fiduciary duty
- defending healthcare system against claims of fraud and breach of contract by hospital
- defending the trademark interests of the United States Olympic Committee against potential infringers
- defending actor/producer/playwright against claims of copyright infringement
- acting on behalf of large format printer manufacturer/seller against Hewlett-Packard involving allegations of state law unfair business practices
- acting on behalf of energy company against Enron for breach of a large scale securitized contract for the production of synthetic fuel; breach of contract involved analysis of complex tax issues

**NEW YORK CITY CORPORATION COUNSEL**, New York, NY

October 2002-January 2003

Pro bono trial work for the Corporation Counsel, Torts Division. Experience taking and defending depositions for a variety of matters including personal injury. Prepare cases for all aspects of trial, including settlement. Select jurors for trial cases. Obtained defense verdict for New York City in a motor vehicle accident trial.

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTH CIRCUIT**, Lafayette, Louisiana

August 1997 - August 1998

*Law Clerk to the Honorable John M. Duhé*

Assisted judge in researching and writing opinions on various legal topics such as First Amendment forced speech claims, the Foreign Sovereigns Immunity Act, Title VII, ADEA, CERCLA, and bankruptcy. Wrote bench memoranda summarizing and evaluating arguments to be made at oral argument.

## EDUCATION

**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY

*Juris Doctor* 1997

**Honors:** Notes and Articles Editor, *Fordham University Intellectual Property Law Journal*, 1996-1997

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**, Nashville, TN

Bachelor of Arts, History, 1994

## HONORS

Athena Finalist

2018

Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership Louisiana

Class of 2020

Air Force Global Strike Honorary Command Chief

May 2022-present

## AFFILIATIONS

Red River STEM (aka SciPort), Board Member

2019-present

Ellevate Louisiana, Board Member

May 2020-present

Shreveport Opera Guild, President

May 2015-May 2017

Opera Guild 65<sup>th</sup> Gala, Chair

May 2013-May 2014

Volunteers for Youth Justice, Board Member

February 2009-February 2012

Junior League

April 2005-July 2012

## ADMISSIONS

States of California, Louisiana, and New York; federal courts in California and Louisiana

## LANGUAGES

Conversant in French and Italian