

## Appendix B: Faculty Biographies

*NOTE: These presenters do not have any financial arrangements or affiliations with corporate organizations that either provide educational grants to this program or may be referenced in this activity. These presenters have also attested that their discussions will not include any unapproved or off-label use of products.*

### **Karla Cason, MS, BSN, RN**

CMS Consultant

Joint Commission Resources, Inc.

Karla Cason has been a registered nurse for more than 27 years, working in multiple clinical and administrative settings. Ms. Cason's clinical background includes all areas of surgical and anesthesia services, thoracic intensive care, pain management, orthopedics, postpartum, and rural general medical surgical nursing. She has functioned as the compliance officer, infection control officer, and administrator for many facilities.

Currently, as a Program Area Manager for the Oklahoma State Health Department, Ms. Cason oversees all licensure, survey and certification activities for all non-long term care facilities in the state of Oklahoma, as well as the CLIA program. In addition, her office acts as the liaison consultant between the healthcare provider and the Regional Office of CMS. Prior to her current State agency role as Program Area Manager, Ms. Cason was a clinical health facility surveyor and conducted multiple licensure, certification, EMTALA, and complaint surveys for the state of Oklahoma.

Ms. Cason's career has also included consulting services for medical facilities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Guam. She has provided services to help organizations improve operational assessment, development, equipment negotiations/procurement, implant negotiations, compliance oversight, and workflow studies for hospitals, long-term acute care, rehabilitation and ambulatory surgical facilities. Ms. Cason has served as project manager on several successful surgical hospitals and ambulatory surgery conversions coordinating projects from construction to certification.

Ms. Cason completed her BSN at Oklahoma City University and her graduate degree (MS) from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, both with honors. Ms. Cason is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and AORN. She is also certified as a CLEAR investigator.

**Vincent Avenatti, CFPCA**

CMS Consultant

Joint Commission Resources

Vincent Avenatti has 28 years of building and fire code enforcement experience for commercial and residential buildings. His Life Safety Code® (LSC) Specialist experience includes project management of a survey contract with CMS for federal oversight of long-term care facilities across the nation. He was the driving force behind the development and maintenance of a LSC survey and documentation process that was accepted by CMS regional offices.

As an LSC Specialist for the Alabama Department of Health, Mr. Avenatti conducted surveys of healthcare facilities (i.e., hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, and skilled care facilities), assessing for compliance with Medicare LSC regulations and state licensure rules. Mr. Avenatti also reviewed and approved building plans in accordance with fire safety and ICC standards.

Mr. Avenatti was co-author of the CMS national award winning “Basic Life Safety Code” training manual, and author of the web-based advanced training programs for the following fire safety inspection principles: “fire alarm system testing,” “sprinkler system testing,” and “construction principles.” He was co-author of the script for the satellite broadcast program “2000 Life Safety Code” update.

Mr. Avenatti is a certified trainer for CMS LSC programs including: Basic Life Safety Code, Fire Safety Evaluation Survey (FSES) Board and Care, and NFPA 99 Healthcare.