

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation Senior Staff Attorney



The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) seeks applicants for a full-time Senior Staff Attorney. CAASE addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation. Our work includes prevention, policy reform, community engagement, and legal services.

CAASE staff attorneys utilize legal representation of survivors of sexual assault and prostitution to further the organization's mission to end sexual exploitation. CAASE's direct legal services include victims' rights advocacy within the context of the criminal justice system, civil legal representation using a variety of civil laws specific to Illinois and related to sexual assault and prostitution, and protection of the panoply of other legal rights that victims have in the context of their schooling, their workplace, and their housing. CAASE does not engage in family law or criminal defense work.

Function: The Senior Staff Attorney will be involved in all aspects of CAASE's substantive legal work – from development of legal strategies to implementation. They will handle a variety of complex cases within the legal department, focusing on victims' rights in criminal cases; manage CAASE's relationships with community partners and coalitions as assigned; and take on additional supervisory duties in support of and as assigned by the Managing Attorney.

Direct Legal Services

The Senior Staff Attorney will carry an active caseload of up to 20 clients and is expected to work independently according to the organization's policies and procedures. Specific tasks will include:

- Meet with, assess comprehensive legal needs of, and provide legal advice and representation to victims of sexual assault and exploitation through prostitution.
- Provide advocacy and representation to victims seeking to have the criminal justice system investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual assault and exploitation.
- Utilize the Illinois Crime Victim Bill of Rights to represent survivors of sexual assault as a victims' attorney within the criminal court.
- Address the civil legal needs of victims related to privacy, immigration, physical safety, education, employment, housing, and financial compensation matters.
- Utilize civil rights remedies, including the Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act, to represent survivors of sexual assault and exploitation in civil matters collateral to their criminal cases.
- Maintain organized and detailed case files and database.

Program Leadership and Supervision

- Oversee, implement, evaluate, and update all aspects of CAASE's policy and procedures in representing survivors under the Illinois Crime Victim Bill of Rights in the criminal justice process, including working with the CAASE Policy Department and CAASE Senior Director, Programs, on issues related to city and state criminal justice policy.
- Provide advice, consultation and mentoring to junior attorneys and pro bono attorneys concerning substantive and procedural areas of law relating to crime victims' rights and the criminal justice process, including assisting them in developing creative and innovative legal strategies.
- Serve in a co-counsel role for pro bono and junior attorneys as needed.
- Supervise interns and fellows, including providing assistance with recruitment, selection, and orientation of interns, as well as overall management of the legal intern and fellowship programs as assigned by the Managing Attorney.

External Partnerships and Community Engagement

- Collaborate with Chicago-based rape crisis centers and victim advocates in providing comprehensive services to victims; manage partnership with specific rape crisis centers as assigned.
- Develop and present educational programming on CAASE's legal services program and the legal rights of survivors for Chicago-area attorneys, community leaders and rape crisis center advocates.
- Represent CAASE and lead CAASE's involvement in community-based coalitions, task forces and campaigns as assigned by the Managing Attorney.
- Seek out, foster, and engage in opportunities to represent CAASE through public speaking and presentations, both locally and nationally.

Status: Full time, exempt.

Reports to: Managing Attorney

Education and Experience

Applicants must have a Juris Doctorate, admission to the Illinois Bar in good standing, and a minimum of five years of direct legal experience.

Qualifications

The ideal applicant will also have:

- Demonstrated, exemplary research, writing, and litigation skills.
- Ability to work independently and develop creative and innovative strategies to complex legal questions.
- Prior supervisory experience.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and comfort working with survivors, victim's advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement, medical practitioners, and other attorneys.
- Comfort and experience with public speaking, particularly in area of legal education.
- Demonstrated commitment to working against all forms of violence against girls and women and on behalf of all victims of sexual assault and exploitation, regardless of sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity or economic circumstances. Demonstrated commitment to feminist principles of identifying and opposing all forms and manifestations of inequality.
- Commitment to developing innovative legal and policy responses to sexual assault through representation of and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault and prostitution within the criminal justice system.

Organization Values: CAASE is a feminist organization, committed to ending all forms of sexual exploitation including specifically sexual assault and prostitution. CAASE is opposed to all forms and manifestations of inequality, including but not limited to those based in race, sexual orientation, and gender. CAASE does not discriminate against job applicants or employees on the basis of race, color, age, order of protection status, physical or mental disability, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, marital status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military services. CAASE supports a woman's full access to reproductive health information and services.

Salary and Benefits: CAASE provides a competitive benefits package, including health, dental, vision, short-term disability insurance and paid time off. Salary low-sixties, negotiable depending on experience.

How to Apply: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, send a substantive cover letter, resume, and writing sample to Christine Evans, Senior Director - Programs, via email at cme@caase.org or by mail at 307 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1818, Chicago, IL 60601. No phone calls please.