

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation Board Members, 2011

Board Executive Committee

Kelly Gilroy, Oasis Legal Finance

Board Chair

Board Personnel and Finance Committee Member

Joined CAASE Board in 2009

Kelly is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and the University of Chicago where she earned master's degrees from both the Harris School of Public Policy and the School of Social Service Administration. Currently, Kelly is the manager of Government Affairs for a national company. Previously, she managed policy and special projects for the Office of the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections. In addition, Kelly has worked on a variety of issues including death penalty reform, economic equality, mental health, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Kelly is a graduate of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership, an educational program that trains women to become effective leaders in Illinois government and politics.

Brenda Myers-Powell, Cook County Sheriff's Office

Board Vice President

Board Development Committee Member

Joined CAASE Board in 2007

A Chicago native, Brenda is a survivor of prostitution and has been a pioneer in the fight to end the exploitation of prostituted people. She works in the Cook County Sheriff's Office's Department of Women's Justice Services and is a lead on their Human Trafficking Response Team. She previously worked in the City of Chicago's Mayor's Office, assisting with the Intersystem Assessment on Prostitution and with Prostitution Alternatives Roundtable on their various legislative and community initiatives. Brenda is cofounder of the Dreamcatcher Foundation, a non-profit agency that works with at risk teens in Chicago. She partnered with Beyond Media to create a documentary, *Turning a Corner*, which tells the stories of people involved in the Chicago's sex trade. Brenda has partnered with nationally known researcher, Jody Raphael to conduct several research projects focused on prostitution. She received the *Judy Baar Topinka's Trailblazers Award*, the *2006 Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault Award* for being a voice for exploited women, *The 2006 Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Recognition Award*, and the 2010 Chicago Foundation for Women Impact Awards.

Ben Altman, UBS Financial

Board Treasurer

Chair of Finance Committee

Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Ben is a lead member of The Altman Wealth Management Group at UBS Financial Services. The group was founded in 1977 and focuses on financial planning services and personal portfolio management for a wide range of individuals, organizations, and charities at all stages of development. In his free time, Ben also raises funds to fight multiple sclerosis by participating in the long distance road biking event with the MS 150 organization. He joined CAASE's board to work on behalf of exploited people. He holds a B.A. with honors in International Relations from Tufts University and a CFP(r) designation from the Washington D.C. Board of Standards.

Christine Evans, GrubHub

Board Secretary

Chair of Board Development Committee

Joined CAASE Board in 2010

A graduate of Boston University and Northwestern University Law School, Christine has committed her legal career to public interest and human rights law, with a focus on child protection and anti-trafficking issues. She is currently working toward a Master of Law in International Human Rights at Northwestern University Law School. Previously, Christine worked with International Justice Mission in Chennai, India, on the investigation and prosecution of forced labor cases and in Lusaka, Zambia, on illegal property seizure cases. Christine has also served as a child's attorney with the Cook County Office of the Public Guardian, the youth protection supervisor for Rotary International, and as corporate counsel for local Chicago business GrubHub.com. In addition to serving on the board, Christine has volunteered with CAASE in completing research on sexual exploitation topics to be used in the organization's education efforts.

Board Members

Lilliana DeSantiago, Chicago Foundation for Women Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Since 1998 Lilliana has worked for organizations that help improve the lives of women and children. She is passionate about eradicating violence, sexual assault, and exploitation. Lilliana briefly served on the board of Equal Voice One Vision and currently serves on a leadership council, catalyst fundraising committee, and grants allocation committee for the Chicago Foundation for Women. Lilliana has also served as project director of Campus Acquaintance Rape Educators at the University of Arizona, where she managed the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault's Crisis Intervention program. Lilliana enjoys networking and bridging services and information to communities of color, especially the Latino community.

Allison Creekmur, Law Student Joined CAASE Board in 2008

Allison graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a master's degree in literature and a concentration in gender studies. She is now working toward a law degree at Loyola University Chicago, focusing on public interest law and ensuring equal access to justice. Allison has worked with a variety of organizations serving low-income individuals including the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the Midwest Center for Justice, the Center for Impact Research, and My Sister's Place in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to law school, she worked in regulatory affairs at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Robin Dusek, Freeborn & Peters Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Robin is a partner at the law firm of Freeborn & Peters where her practice focuses on large disputes that arise in the insurance and reinsurance industry. In 2009, Robin founded a non-profit organization, Educating Africa's Children, which supports two schools in Uganda, one of which was started with the help of Educating Africa's Children and is named in Robin's honor (the Dusek Child Care Centre). Robin currently serves as the Executive Director of Educating Africa's Children. Robin also sits on the board of Hooked on Drums, a non-profit organization that teaches West African drumming to children in Chicago. In 2009, Robin spent 3 weeks doing *pro bono* legal work in East Africa for FARM-Africa. Robin enjoys traveling, particularly to East Africa, and running. She received her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and her J.D. from the College of William & Mary School of Law.

Olga Gutierrez, City Colleges of Chicago Fundraising Committee Member Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Olga currently works at the City Colleges of Chicago as the executive director of legislative and government affairs. Her experience in government affairs includes working at Chicago Public Schools and the Mayor's Office. She earned her law degree at Chicago-Kent College of Law and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Maria Valdez of the Northern District Court of Illinois. She is a volunteer consultant for the Organization of American States (OAS) and Department of Public Security in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, and she lectures on international human rights and gender issues as they related to trafficking in persons in the Caribbean and Central America.

Courtney Kleshinski, Law Student Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Courtney graduated from the George Washington University in Washington, DC with degrees in History and International Affairs. She is now working toward a law degree at the University of Chicago Law School, where she is on the board of Law Students for Reproductive Justice and co-chair of the Public Interest Law Society. This summer, she will serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Maria Valdez of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois and volunteer with CAASE's legal department. As a volunteer at the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, Courtney saw firsthand the prevalence of sexual violence. She joined the CAASE board because of its local focus and innovative approaches to addressing demand and the harms of the sex trade.

Amy Kohn, Seyfarth Shaw
Personnel Committee Member
Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Amy has nearly 20 years of experience working as an employment lawyer and HR consultant, currently at Seyfarth Shaw and previously for more than 12 years at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Amy is a longtime supporter of non-profit organizations and has participated in two half-marathons with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. A supporter of women's rights since she took a "Women and the Law" class during college, Amy worked for a labor-side law firm during law school and is committed to supporting CAASE's mission and achieving its goals. Amy graduated with a B.A. with honors from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

Kevin Lambert, Schawk Retail Marketing
Board Development Committee Member
Joined CAASE Board in 2011

A copywriter who wants to make a positive influence in the community, Kevin is originally from Burlington, VT. He attended Michigan State University where he obtained a BS in Biology. After deciding that veterinary school was not for him, Kevin explored a number of career paths including finance and food & beverage among others before settling on one of his lifelong passions, writing. He currently works as a copywriter at Schawk Retail Marketing by day and a freelancer in his free time. Kevin believes human trafficking and sexual exploitation to be the most fundamentally tragic social issue we face today, which is why he wants to help CAASE further its cause and successfully promote its mission.

Monika J. Machen, Polsinelli Shughart
Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee
Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Monika Machen specializes in corporate Chapter 11 bankruptcies and out-of-court restructurings. She handles sophisticated bankruptcy matters and related litigation on behalf of clients in federal courts throughout the country, including in Delaware, Chicago, New York and California. Her diverse client base includes debtors, bankruptcy committees, banks, equipment lessors, and funds involved in distressed deals. A zealous yet practical advocate, Monika is committed to delivering exceptional service to her clients in times of extreme crisis. Monika frequently lends her legal skills to various philanthropic endeavors. Throughout her career, she has represented asylum seekers and *pro bono* organizations. She has also served as guardian *ad litem* for minor children requiring legal representation. In 2006, she successfully obtained permanent asylum status for a political refugee from Myanmar (Burma).

Tiffany Madigan, Mayer Brown
Finance Committee Member
Joined CAASE Board in 2008

Tiffany is a Chicago native who, after an extended tour of Europe, has returned to her roots. She has an undergraduate degree in comparative literature from Princeton University and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown Law Center. She has previously worked in international finance, both in the U.S. and Europe, and currently is a Tax Associate with the law firm Mayer Brown. She acts in leadership roles with a number of educational institutions both to promote their ideological development and to establish and maintain comprehensive fundraising plans.

Kris McCoy, Copy Editor
Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Kris McCoy is an editor, attorney, and student. Kris graduated with honors from the University of Illinois College of Law and went on to practice law for eight years, focusing primarily on international reinsurance litigation. Kris has since returned to school, studying topics across several disciplines, including editing and the history and politics of the Middle East. She works as a freelance copy editor, providing editing and writing services to various businesses, writers, and nonprofits. Kris is also the vice president of Educating Africa's Children, a nonprofit that supports the building and development of nursery and primary schools in western Uganda. She is involved with Acumen Fund, a nonprofit venture fund that invests in entrepreneurs around the world who deliver services to the poor. She works with the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, helping to transcribe President Kennedy's speeches so that they are digitally preserved. And finally, Kris has been working with CAASE as a volunteer (editing toolkits, primarily) since early 2010.

Renee Mehl, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.

Fundraising Committee Member

Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Renee completed law school at Marquette University where she was editor-in-chief of the *Marquette Intellectual Property Law Review*, vice president of the Public Interest Law Society, and student supervisor of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic. At the clinic, she provided legal services for a diverse group of people. She had the opportunity to see firsthand how social issues and legal issues intertwine and how frustrating and confusing legal issues can be to non-lawyers. At the Public Interest Society, she helped raise funds for scholarships so students could pursue non-profit unpaid internships. Renee joined the CAASE board to help fight sex trafficking and to offer her experience in fundraising and leadership.

Anthony Oliver, Community Venture Investment Corporation

Board Development Committee Member

Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Anthony is a real estate developer and founder of Community Venture Investment Corporation (CVIC), which specializes in the acquisition, development, and management of single and multi-family housing in low- to moderate-income communities in Chicago. Founded in 2002, CVIC's mission is to seek to create a valuable investment experience while increasing human potential and building better communities. CVIC has been successfully restoring properties throughout the Chicago area since its inception. Prior to CVIC, Anthony served as president and CEO of StreetWise Inc. for 11 years. StreetWise was founded in late 1992 by the People for Ending Hunger Foundation and was noted as "the most successful street newspapers of its kind in North America" by *Crain's Chicago Business* in 1995. Anthony is credited for building the business into a multi-million dollar social enterprise. He served on StreetWise's board of directors in 2006.

Rachael G. Pontikes, Duane Morris LLP

Joined CAASE Board in 2011

Rachael is a partner in the trial practice group of Chicago office of Duane Morris LLP, where she specializes in high stakes and high profile commercial litigation. As part of Rachael's practice, she protects the rights of women and girls. Rachael brought two civil actions for several girls who allege they were sexually exploited when featured in child pornography by the Girls Gone Wild enterprise. She also obtained political asylum for a domestic violence victim, and citizenship for a 17-year-old under the Violence Against Women Act. Rachael is also a member of the executive committee of the Chicago Bar Association Alliance for women, where she co-founded the mentoring circles program, the largest mentoring program for Chicago women attorneys. Trained well by her feminist mother, as far back as she can remember, Rachael has spoken up for the rights of women and girls and looks forward to using her leadership skills in fighting sex trafficking and abuses of women.

Brooke Skinner, DraftFCB

Fundraising Committee Member

Joined CAASE Board in 2010

Brooke has grown up as an activist, volunteering for gay rights, civil rights and women's rights organizations her entire life. She was drawn to CAASE's local focus and innovative approaches to addressing demand and educating youth about the harms of the sex trade. Brooke's previous experience includes serving as the Louisville Advertising Federation's diversity board chair; as the Parkinson's Research Society of Kentuckiana's secretary and junior board chair; and as a trustee for the Steele Family Foundation. For the past three years Brooke has overseen a team of eight in Chicago and six worldwide as VP North America strategic planning director on the SC Johnson account and SVP worldwide director of strategic planning. Other previous work includes events with Howard Brown Health Center and the Center on Halsted.