

Kaethe Morris Hoffer, CAASE Executive Director

Kaethe became CAASE's Executive Director in 2013. She previously served as CAASE's Legal Director and Deputy Executive Director since 2009, when a legal services and policy advocacy not-for-profit that she founded became part of the organization. Kaethe has been working against sexual inequality and sex-based violence for more than twenty years, engaging in feminist advocacy and litigation in many venues.



Examples of Kaethe's past work include the following: Internationally, she represented Equality Now in United Nations proceedings that created the international law against sex trafficking and she served as project manager for a precedent-setting civil lawsuit led by Catharine MacKinnon on behalf of survivors of Bosnian-Serb rape death camps. At the state level, Kaethe served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois from 1999 to 2003, where she chaired the Working Group on Violence Against Women, co-authored the Gender Violence Act, and assisted in the development and passage of the Civil No Contact Order Act and the Victims' Employment Safety and Security Act. Locally, Kaethe served as a policy assistant to the Mayor of the City of Chicago, directed federal affairs for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and represented low-income women at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.

Kaethe is a current member of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault Public Affairs Committee, and a past member of the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence (2012-2013) and the Cook County Women's Commission (2011-2012). She served on Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign Policy Advisory Committee on violence against women issues. In recent years Kaethe has been recognized by the Chicago Foundation for Women (2012 Impact Award) and the YWCA Evanston/North Shore (2012 YWomen Leadership Award). Kaethe is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the University of Michigan Law School. Contact Kaethe at kmh@caase.org