

Candidate Statement of Amanda V. Lopez

Position: CASE Director at Large

I am running for the CASE Board to help the membership obtain the fair salaries and benefits that we all deserve.

I am a Deputy Attorney General IV in the Los Angeles office and have been a member of CASE since joining the office over eight years ago. During this time, our wages have continued to stagnate, especially when accounting for the impact of inflation. Members of CASE should receive real wage increases to account for the rising costs of living throughout California, as well as to recognize the valuable and critical work we contribute to the public and to stay competitive with salaries for other public sector legal professionals.

I will work to demonstrate the need for increased wages to the Governor and legislators. I will work cooperatively with other CASE Board members to achieve increases in salaries and benefits for our members. In addition, I will work on a plan to implement promotions for all levels at a quicker pace. For instance, there is a need to credit or cut down on the delays between the time of department approval for promotions and the processing by the Department of Finance, which can take several months. Unit 2 members should not have to wait for their salary increases after they have been approved by management, and any delay in processing their promotions should not be used to delay qualification for future promotions. I also understand the need to continue to strive for improved health care benefits, family leave policies, and childcare/education benefits.

Prior CASE Boards have obtained wage increases and new benefits for their members, but more work is needed. I will work with the CASE Board to evaluate our bargaining strategies so that we can achieve improved wages and benefits at a faster and more meaningful pace.

Thank you for your consideration.