



Kate O'Shea's path to capital defense work was an unconventional one. From age 18 to 27, she worked as a Harley-Davidson mechanic. During that time, she joined the Chopper Chick Crew, a group of five women who traveled around the country performing live motorcycle builds and donating the bikes to charity. There began her love of charitable giving.

Kate eventually followed her mother, Cindy O'Shea (a career public defender and 40-year devotee of indigent defense), into capital mitigation. She worked for Cindy's agency, Capital Mitigation Consultants, until starting her own agency in 2015.

Kate's work with Casey Secor and Kay Thompson came about through an introduction by Allison Miller, and the four of them have worked together on five death penalty cases since 2019. Kate, Allison and Casey make up Suzerain's consultation team, which provides assistance and training to capital defenders throughout the United States.

Since 2009, Kate has represented approximately seventy-five capital defendants, fourteen of whom went to trial. She joined Suzerain in 2022 with the hope that her experience will assist capital defenders around the country better serve their clients