



Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, Risa Lanier graduated from Percy L. Julian High School and matriculated to Illinois State University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. She then attended Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate in 1999. On February 14, 2000, Risa was sworn into the Cook County State's Attorney's Office where she has practiced criminal law as a prosecutor for the past 24 years.

Risa Lanier currently serves as the First Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the second largest prosecutor's office in the country, where she oversees the operations of the office of more than 1200 employees and works alongside members of the executive staff to create policies and procedures in the State's Attorney's Office that promote public safety while recognizing and combatting historical inequalities inherent in the criminal justice system through a progressive prosecution model. She also helps develop in-house training programs, engage with elected leaders, stakeholders, and community members, and prosecutes high profile cases, such as the murder of Chicago Police Commander Paul Bauer.

Outside of her official duties, Risa serves the community in a variety of ways. She is a member of the National Black Prosecutors Association, Cook County Bar Association, and the Chicago Bar Association. Risa is an active member of New Faith Apostolic Church, where she sits on the Executive Board and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.