

Meet Meet Maliq Kendricks:

Inspired by Tragedy; Persevered Through Hard Work

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Maliq Kendricks's first meaningful experience with the law was gut-wrenching. His cousin was murdered. Kendricks was only 15 and had hundreds of unanswered questions. Always one to seek understanding and change, he emailed District Attorney Steve Wolfson to set up a meeting. His questions were answered, and at the ripe age of 15, he started paving his path to law school.

Kendricks grew up on the Historic Westside as a third-generation Nevadan and the oldest of four children. His father owned a mobile carwash, and his mother stayed at home. His parents and his grandmother—a teacher—stressed the importance of education. Kendricks loved school, and it came fairly easy to him. He was always willing to work for the parts that did not come easy.

Even as a child, Kendricks was a self-starter, actively creating the life he wanted. In seventh grade, he earned a spot in a highly selective math, space, and science camp at UNLV. At Legacy High School, he earned straight As, played football, and participated in Nevada Partners' work-study program at Catholic Charities. He was a case management intern, educating the homeless about resources available for employment and life skills. He also held down jobs at Crocs and Gap while in high school.

In Kendricks's senior year, he attended the 16th Annual Unity Through Knowledge Historically Black Colleges



and Universities (HBCU) Tour, which featured a number of HBCUs. He applied for and was accepted to Tuskegee University, among others. So, after being elected prom king, Kendricks was on his way to Alabama to attend Tuskegee on a full tuition scholarship.

Kendricks was determined to soak up every experience college had to offer. Contemplating a career in politics, he participated in student government. His peers elected him as “Mr. Sophomore,” and named him Student Government Association president over the student body. He was also an active participant in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Political Science Honor Society (Pi Sigma Alpha). In addition to his positions in student government and community activities, he held multiple on-campus positions in the office of admissions, marketing, in the library, and as a student ambassador. In his last year of college, he was selected as an “HBCU All-Star” by the White House Initiative on HBCUs to aggrandize HBCU excellence, innovation, and

sustainability—a designation only bestowed on two students per HBCU campus a year.

Consistent with his intention to maximize his college experience, Kendrick interned for U.S. Rep. Steven Horsford of Nevada’s Fourth Congressional District, the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., and he attended an international comparative rural policy studies institute in Dublin, Ireland.

After college, Kendrick was interested in pursuing teaching and law school. He applied for Teach for America, and UNLV’s William S. Boyd School of Law. He was accepted to both and ultimately decided to accept a seat in Boyd’s Class of 2019, while deferring his acceptance to Teach for America.

Kendrick excelled in law school. His first year, he earned a CALI Award in legal writing, had a work-study job at the library, and externed for Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez (ret.). He was fascinated by Judge Gonzalez’s business court docket, which steered his course selection from criminal law to commercial litigation.

After a successful first year of law school, Kendrick knew he was not ready to give up his passion for education and teaching. Determined to keep both of his passions alive, he started a master’s program in curriculum and instruction his second year of law school. He was “Mr. Kendrick,” a full-time, eighth-grade English teacher by day, and Maliq, a full-time, completely exhausted, law student at night.

“I attended the same middle school that I taught at,” Kendrick said. “Being able to teach there, to be an example to children who look just like me, was a full circle moment. I would have my law school books on the desk behind me, and the students would always inquire about why they were so big. For some of the students, I was the first person they knew who went to professional school. It was such a privilege to be their teacher and contribute a dose of positivity and possibility to their lives.”

And while Kendrick’s decision to schedule all of his classes at night after a full day of work was certainly burning the candle at both ends, it paid off—big time. Although his schedule forced him to enroll in night/weekend classes such as bankruptcy, insurance law, business law, and intellectual property transactions, squeezing in IP transactions after a full day of work turned out to be one of the best decisions of his life. He met his fiancé, Zaniah Jordan, in that class.

After graduation, Kendrick clerked for Judge Cristina Silva, and he then accepted an associate position at the firm where his longtime friend and mentor, Joshua Igeleke, worked.

“I am always willing to help someone who is willing to help themselves,” Igeleke said. “Maliq fits that mold to a tee. We met in a program called Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow. He quickly became president of the program and was active about asking for advice and executing on it. Huge success was always on his path because he worked hard to create circumstances that would generate that success.”

Discussing his path, Kendrick is humbled that so many people took a chance on him.

“So much of my success has come from the investment and kindness of others, like Judge Silva, Justice Patricia Lee, Joshua Igeleke, and so many others. Each day, I endeavor to repay that kindness by helping others move forward,” Kendrick said.

True to his word, Kendrick is an avid community advocate. He is a board member of Nevada Rise Academy and is treasurer (and future president) of the State Bar of Nevada’s Construction Law Section. He is also highly involved in the Las Vegas chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA). He has multiple leadership positions in the LVNBA, including acting as the corresponding secretary and chair of the Youth Oral Advocacy Competition, as well as the prior chair of the Back to School Committee. Combining his passion for teaching with his desire to give back, Kendrick also recently picked up a new title, “Professor Kendrick,” teaching business law at the College of Southern Nevada.

Today, Kendrick is a busy litigation associate, thriving at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP.

“Maliq demonstrates the hallmarks of successful lawyers with more experience,” said Frank Flansberg, a department chair at Brownstein Hyatt Farber



Maliq Kendrick and his future bride, Zaniah Jordan, will marry in September. Jordan is also a local attorney.

Maliq Kendrick poses with his brother, Najeeb Kendrick.



Maliq Kendrick celebrates with his family after being sworn into the State Bar of Nevada by Judge Cristina Silva. Family members attending the ceremony were his grandmother Linda, father Kimm, sister Kaamilah, mother Tenishia, Silva, fiancée Zaniah Jordan, and sister Khadeejah.



Maliq Kendrick addresses students during the Tuskegee University Convocation ceremonies.

Schreck. “He is committed, talented, and humble. There is no question that Maliq will emerge as one of the quintessential lawyer’s lawyer of our community.”

Kirk Lenhard, also a shareholder at Brownstein, added: “Maliq constantly demonstrates both a skill and maturity level beyond what you would expect of an attorney with his limited years of practice. He has an engaging personality and demeanor that works well with clients.”

When he’s not in the office, Kendrick’s first priority is spending time with his family. He also loves doing Pilates and walking his dog, Macadamia. In September, Judge Silva will officiate his wedding.