

# Frierson Blazes Another Trail into U.S. Attorney's Office

BY ROBERT HORNE,  
STATE BAR OF NEVADA STAFF

**Jason Frierson has had quite a remarkable career leading the way.**

Frierson was a member of the charter class of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In addition, he was the first African American to serve as the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly, and most recently he was appointed to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada – the first African American to serve in that capacity.



He was nominated to that position by President Joe Biden on November 15, 2021. Frierson was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 27, 2022.

“The responsibility I have as the first African American U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada is reflected by the lens through which I see how to most effectively deliver justice,” Frierson said. “For me, that means I advance the cause of delivering justice with an awareness that the system impacts different communities in different ways. It also means I maintain a sharp focus on treating similar individuals in an equitable way, whether those individuals be victims who want justice or defendants who have a right to a just system.

“It means I also work to have a diverse office that reflects the community it serves, and a presence in that community so there is less distance between those who carry out the cause of justice and those who are impacted by it.”

Frierson was born and raised in Compton, California. He attended college at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he majored in health science (pre-med). He then attended Boyd, where his favorite class was criminal law, but he enjoyed working with the Juvenile Justice Clinic most of all, Frierson said. He earned his J.D. in 2001.

He then completed a clerkship in 2002 with former Nevada Supreme Court Justice Myron E. Leavitt. He’s been practicing law since.

"I've enjoyed a wide range of practice areas prior to becoming U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada," Frierson said. "I worked in civil practice, largely working on mass tort cases initially and then became a deputy attorney general, prosecuting security fraud and prison escape cases as well as habeas appeals. Wanting to have more courtroom experience, I became a deputy public defender, eventually promoted to chief deputy and supervising a team of attorneys and staff.

"After seven years there, I moved over to the District Attorney's office where I handled child abuse and neglect cases as a senior deputy district attorney."

Frierson then moved to a family law firm, specializing in domestic and international surrogacy contracts. However, he missed public service and eventually returned to the District Attorney's office to handle child abuse and neglect cases. He was then offered a management position with the Public Defender's office as an assistant public defender.

He now serves as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada, where he has been tasked with seeking justice and upholding the rule of law.

As far as advice for others seeking a similar post, Frierson said the most important quality that a U.S. Attorney must possess is an absolute commitment to ensuring that the office carries out the purposes set forth by the Department of Justice with skill and integrity.

"We are experiencing trying times when it comes to the public's perception about government, particularly when it comes to law enforcement," Frierson said. "I believe that the absolute greatest impact anyone can have on the justice system is by being a part of the delivery of justice. Lawyers, including those from minority populations, can use their experience and perspective to shape how justice is delivered so that it is just but also fair. Whether it be in criminal prosecutions, or in civil litigation on affirmative and defensive matters, I can think of no greater role to impact the community than in the office I currently serve.

"I would encourage lawyers who genuinely want to have that kind of impact to put in the time and effort to sharpen their writing and oral advocacy skills and explore the U.S. Attorney's office."

To accomplish those goals, Frierson said his office is increasingly present in the community, whether at law school, community events, or meeting with key community stakeholders. Anyone looking for a job with his office can apply at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

"We not only embrace, but seek out diverse staff and attorneys, so that we are better able to advance the goals of the Department of Justice," Frierson said.

As far as working with his office, Frierson said his office focuses on matters that have the greatest impact on the community.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada truly operates as a family, with approximately 115 employees, half of whom are attorneys," Frierson said. "We don't have the caseload of a local prosecutor's office, which gives us an opportunity to be more selective in advancing the most important cases, focusing on thorough written and oral advocacy on matters that have the greatest impact on the community. ...

"I am proud to be given an opportunity to lead this office, amongst so many talented and dedicated public servants."

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