

NEVADA TRAILBLAZERS

Meet Zaniah Jordan- Kendricks

Like Angelou, Las Vegas Attorney
Thrives with Passion, Compassion

BY MARY BACON, ESQ.

Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks loves reading Maya Angelou.

“I often think about the depth of her statement, ‘my mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style,’” Jordan-Kendricks said. “While I have faced certain traumas as a Black woman, I do not let those traumas define me. Instead, I trust in God and try to live my life filled with purpose and show grace—not only to myself, but to my peers.”

Jordan-Kendricks was born in South Central Los Angeles, the oldest of three children. Her mother was a pharmacist technician, and her father worked in inventory at a steel company. As a child, Jordan-Kendricks was shy and introverted. To try and open her up, her mother had her audition for small acting roles—eventually leading to small appearances in “Gilmore Girls” and “Malcolm in the Middle.”



Growing up, Jordan-Kendricks’s mother ensured education was prioritized above all else. As a child, her mother was never introduced to the idea of going to college. To ensure she knew of all the educational opportunities available to her, college was discussed early and often.

“Each year over summer, my mom would go to Lakeshore Learning Center, a surplus store for educators,” Jordan-Kendricks said. “She’d buy me educational workbooks above grade level and would have me to complete several pages before I could go outside and play.”

Her mother’s ardent focus paid off. Jordan-Kendricks earned straight A’s—and developed an independent passion for learning and a powerful work ethic. In elementary school and middle school, she participated in competitive cheer and routinely qualified to go to nationals.

“I love committing to something, creating a plan, working hard to execute that plan, and seeing that hard work pay off,” she said. “Competitive cheer was so much fun because that’s how I felt at competitions—hard work paying off.”

In high school, Jordan-Kendricks participated in everything she could possibly make time for. In addition to holding down straight A’s and taking multiple college classes, she wrote for the school newspaper, was the editor of the yearbook, worked at a juice bar, and played softball (eventually making varsity). She loved science, biology in particular. She was determined to be a doctor and invested two summers studying at Charles E. Drew University of Medicine and Science School through the National

Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks and Maliq Kendricks pose for photos during their wedding.



Institute of Health, where she focused on studying irritable bowel syndrome in mice. After each summer, she presented her results at Harvard. She eventually graduated 10th in her class and was accepted to UCLA—no small task as the first person in her family to go to college or attend professional school.

Because of all the college credits she took in high school, Jordan-Kendricks was a “junior” her first year at UCLA. After taking an entertainment law class, Zaniah changed her major from biology to political science. She knew that law school was in her future. While at UCLA, she was a program director for the residence program and continued working at the juice bar when she could.

Jordan-Kendricks graduated shortly after her 21st birthday and decided to take time off to study for the LSAT and save money for law school. True to character, she worked several jobs while studying for the LSAT, including as a teller at Bank of America, as a legal assistant, and at the juice bar—sometimes working up to 60 hours a week.

After “staying home” for college, Jordan-Kendricks knew she wanted to go out of state. William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas was at the top of her list because of its nationally ranked writing program.

“It was the best decision I’ve ever made,” she said. “The investment Boyd and its professors make into their students sealed the deal for me.”

While at Boyd, she seized every opportunity she could. She was managing editor of the UNLV Gaming Law Journal, vice president of finance for the Public Interest Law Association, and president of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

As president of BLSA, her goal was to mentor students who are interested in higher education. To do this, she strived to make genuine connections amongst her peers, practicing attorneys and her new community in Las Vegas. As the immediate past president of BLSA, she functioned as a liaison between BLSA and the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA). In that capacity, she assisted in bringing back the formal mentorship program between BLSA and the LVNBA.

During law school, she also interned at the Federal Public Defender’s office and clerked for Judge Timothy Williams.

“I really enjoyed my time working with Zaniah. She’s extremely goal orientated and has a fantastic work ethic,” Judge Williams said.



Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks and her husband, Maliq Kendricks, pose with Jordan-Kendricks's immediate family during their wedding.

Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks, third from left, poses during the 2023 Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association's Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.



Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks enjoys spending time with her dog Macadamia.



Today, Jordan-Kendricks is a busy corporate associate at Holland & Hart. She counsels clients on a range of corporate matters, including entity formation, corporate governance, debt and equity financings, securities offerings, SEC filings, general corporate transactions, and the structure and terms of commercial agreements.

“We were very happy when [Jordan-Kendricks] agreed to join our team,” said Gian Brown, a partner at Holland & Hart. “In addition to bringing some much-needed public company skills to our Nevada corporate team, [she] brings a warmth, sense of humor and singular focus on client needs that aligns with our team and office culture.”

To ensure she is giving back to the community, Jordan-Kendricks is an active member of the LVNBA, acting at different times as historian and the Career Advancement & Networking chair. She is also on the Board of Get Outdoors Nevada, a non-profit focused on providing opportunities to experience, learn about, and care for our natural and urban outdoor spaces.

In her spare time, Jordan-Kendricks enjoys taking Pilates classes, trying out cooking new vegan dishes, and spending time with her family and dog, Macadamia.