

Justice & Injustice Panel Biographies



Attorney General Aaron D. Ford is Nevada's 34th attorney general and the first African American to take statewide constitutional office. He previously served as the Majority Leader, Minority Leader and Assistant Majority Whip in the Nevada State Senate. During his time as a legislator, he passed several bills related to criminal justice and reform. In his role as Attorney General he believes there is no task greater than the pursuit of justice, and has adopted the office motto "Our Job is Justice."



A Las Vegas native, Nicole Cannizzaro is the first woman ever elected to serve as Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate. She was first elected to the state Senate in 2016, representing Senate District 6. Nicole has spent her career in the legislature working to safeguard and expand reproductive rights, increase access to mental health services, and protect domestic violence survivors.



Jason Frierson was first elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 2010 and currently serves as Speaker of the Assembly, becoming the first African American to serve as Speaker. Jason is also an attorney and currently is an Assistant Public Defender for Clark County.



Tom Roberts was first elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 2018, representing District 13. Roberts serves on the Interim Committee to Conduct an Interim Study of Issues Relating to the Pretrial Release of Defendants in Criminal Cases and the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security. Roberts was an Airman in the United States Air Force and served as an Assistant Sheriff in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.



Ben Kieckhefer has represented south Washoe County and Carson City in the Nevada State Senate since 2010, focusing primarily on budgetary, tax, and education issues. A former journalist, Ben works full time as the Director of Client Relations for the law firm McDonald Carano LLP. Ben and his wife April live in south Reno, raising their four children who are enrolled in the Washoe County School District.