

## **Jerry L. Maynard, II**

Jerry L. Maynard, II, has built a distinguished career at the intersection of law, politics, business, and community leadership. A resident of North Nashville, Jerry's journey began with his academic achievements, setting the foundation for his impactful career.

Jerry earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Political Science, from Indiana University Bloomington in 1989. His time at Indiana University sparked a deep interest in justice and governance, which he carried with him into his further studies. In 1993, Jerry completed his Doctor of Jurisprudence at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, focusing on litigation, social justice and political law, laying the groundwork for a successful career in both the legal and political arenas.

After earning his law degree, Jerry began his legal career as an associate at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, where he specialized in litigation. In this role, he defended Fortune 500 companies in complex cases involving products liability, insurance, and medical malpractice. His early career provided him with invaluable experience in corporate law, risk management, and regulatory compliance.

In 1996, Jerry transitioned into higher education, joining Meharry Medical College as Director of Legal Affairs and Risk Management. Over the next three years, he provided legal counsel on healthcare law, labor relations, and corporate governance, while managing litigation for the institution. Jerry's role placed him at the center of critical decision-making, guiding the college's leadership on legal and strategic matters.

Simultaneously, Jerry began his journey as an educator. He served as an adjunct professor at both Tennessee State University and Fisk University from 1996 to 2001, where he taught law courses in hospitality and public health programs. His passion for teaching allowed him to share his legal expertise with the next generation of leaders in Nashville.

Jerry's career continued to evolve in 1999 when he became General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer for Cathedral of Praise, a growing megachurch in Nashville. For over five years, Jerry managed the day-to-day operations of the church, overseeing its finances, administration, and legal matters. He led significant fundraising campaigns, including a successful effort to raise over \$500,000 to eliminate the church's mortgage. Jerry also spearheaded the construction of a new \$5.7 million facility, helping Cathedral of Praise expand its reach and services to the community.

In the early 2000s, Jerry expanded his impact beyond the legal and religious sectors. He became actively involved in Tennessee politics, serving as Deputy Chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party from 2005 to 2007. In this role, Jerry was instrumental in raising over \$2 million, increasing voter registration, and broadening the party's base across the state. His leadership during this time helped elect Democratic candidates at local, state, and federal

levels, and he played a key role in organizing the annual Jackson Day fundraiser, which raised more than \$300,000.

Building on his political involvement, Jerry was elected to the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County in 2007, representing the entire county as a Council At-Large member. He was re-elected in 2011, raising over \$250,000 for his campaign and helping more than 15 other candidates raise an additional \$50,000 for their local elections. Jerry's tenure on the council was marked by his contributions to the Budget & Finance, Education, and Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committees, where he worked on legislative initiatives that had lasting impacts on the Nashville community.

In 2007, Jerry founded The Maynard Group, a consulting firm specializing in institutional development, advocacy, and governmental relations. For over 15 years, Jerry has provided strategic counsel to clients, helping them build stronger relationships with local, state, and federal agencies. His expertise has guided organizations through complex regulatory challenges while advancing their business and political interests.

Currently, Jerry serves as the Director of Government Affairs for Roy T. Goodwin Contractors and is the CEO of The Maynard Group Inc., where he oversees legislative and regulatory compliance, while fostering relationships with government agencies and officials to support the company's growth and mission.

Jerry's public service and dedication to his community extend to his continued involvement in the Democratic Party. In 2008, he was elected to serve on the Democratic National Committee's Standing Committee on Credentials, representing President-elect Barack Obama, and went on to serve as a delegate for President Obama's re-election in 2012. He was the first African American to serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee for the Tennessee Democratic Party, further demonstrating his commitment to advancing democratic values and ensuring political engagement throughout the state.

Today, Jerry L. Maynard, II remains a respected leader in both the public and private sectors. As Senior Pastor of the Cathedral of Praise, he leads a vibrant, multi-campus megachurch, providing spiritual guidance and fostering community engagement. Beyond his pastoral role, Jerry continues to be a key figure in Nashville, driving progress in government affairs, business, and community development.

Jerry's influence and leadership have been pivotal in the successful realization of several landmark projects that have shaped the growth and identity of Nashville. His contributions have been instrumental in major initiatives such as The National Museum of African American Music, the new Titans Stadium, Nashville Sounds Stadium, Geodis Soccer Stadium, and the Nashville Music City Center. His impact extends to critical development projects like the JW Marriott Nashville Hotel, the Nashville East Bank Development Project, and the River North Development Project.

Committed to enhancing the community's well-being, Jerry has also played a significant role in initiatives such as the Hadley Park Tennis Pavilion, the expansion of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, and the Jefferson Street Gateway to Heritage. Most recently, he has supported the establishment of Oracle's new headquarters in Nashville, further positioning the city as a hub for innovation and growth.