

## **Retired Justice Shannon Frison Biography for Veterans Observance Event 11-11-24**

Retired Justice Shannon Frison was appointed to the Massachusetts Superior Court in 2013. She was the youngest judge on that court. Justice Frison took that seat after serving for more than 4 years on the Boston Municipal Court in from 2009-2013, beginning her tenure on the bench at age 39. Justice Frison has been speaking and fighting on behalf of the oppressed, accused and downtrodden for more than three decades. She first opened her Boston-based Frison Law Firm, P.C. in 2007, focusing on “blue collar” crime, employment law, and military justice. She tried several high-profile murder, rape, and conspiracy cases in the Commonwealth and in the military courts of North Carolina, Pensacola, Florida, and Okinawa, Japan. She retired from the bench in 2024 and reopened Frison Law Firm, P.C. in after 15 years on the Massachusetts bench. Frison Law Firm handles complex criminal and civil litigation, military justice matters, mediations, and provides expert testimony.

Justice Frison is a past president of the Massachusetts Black Judges Conference from 2010 to 2013. She is a jurist, a Major of Marines, a speaker, and a mentor to trial lawyers and law students. Justice Frison speaks and trains lawyers, students, and business on diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as racial disparities in criminal justice. Before appointment, Justice Frison practiced locally and abroad as owner of Frison Law Firm, P.C. Her practice focused on “blue collar” criminal law and military justice. She tried several high-profile murder, rape, and conspiracy cases in the Boston area and in the military courts of North Carolina, Pensacola, Florida, and Okinawa, Japan. Her final case before taking the bench was a tragic and complex quadruple murder that occurred in Dorchester and was tried in Suffolk Superior Court.

Justice Frison spent nearly seven years as a litigation associate at the former white collar defense firm Dwyer & Collora, LLP in Boston prior to opening her own firm – Frison Law Firm, P.C. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Government from Harvard & Radcliffe Colleges in 1992 and her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1995. Justice Frison was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1995 and began her career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Norfolk County District Attorney’s Office where she worked out of the Quincy District Court.

Justice Frison holds the rank of Major in the United States Marine Corps and is a Marine Corps Judge Advocate. She completed Officer Candidates School and accepted her commission in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1994; and she completed The Basic School and Naval Justice School in 1997. From 1997-2000, she was the prosecutor (Trial Counsel) aboard Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Since the beginning of the hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, Justice Frison has been mobilized to active duty twice in support of the Global War on Terror in both legal and nonlegal capacities. Her duties have taken her to the G-5 War Plans Branch of the Marine Forces Pacific in Hawaii as well as the Keystone Judicial Circuit in Japan. In addition to serving the country and practicing law, she has served as a Guberman Teaching Fellow at Brandeis University for three years teaching "*Introduction to Law*," as well as appearing as guest lecturer at Brandeis on military justice and military tribunals. Justice Frison was also a member of the Boston Bar Association’s *Task Force To Prevent Wrongful Convictions* and Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop.

The judge is a member of the Roxbury Community College Advisory Board. She has taught trial advocacy twice a year for more than 13 years at Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop, founded by Professor Charles Ogletree. For over 10 years, Justice Frison has spoken as the keynote on bias and diversity for the Massachusetts Bar Association’s quarterly Practicing With Professionalism Course. The Course is required for all new lawyers in Massachusetts. Justice

Frison speaks regularly on the topics of Trial Advocacy, Race & Bias, and Diversity for bar associations, law schools, colleges, businesses, and agencies. She is a TED speaker from TEDx Bradenton in 2022 where she discussed conformity, authenticity, and the role bias has played in her life and career.