

Russell Smith Bio

Russell Smith graduated from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah and was admitted to the bar in 1996. Mr. Smith did defense work for five years in Salt Lake City before being recruited to Nevada where he began his career as a prosecutor in 2001.

He served as a prosecutor in Churchill County, NV; Chief Deputy District Attorney for Humboldt County; and was elected District Attorney of Humboldt County. After serving as District Attorney for many years, Mr. Smith was recruited by the Nevada Attorney General to be Criminal Chief. Mr. Smith created the Human Trafficking, Money Laundering and Cybercrime Units within the Nevada Attorney General's Office to begin prosecuting this crime under the newly passed human trafficking law and to educate agencies and communities throughout the state about human trafficking. Mr. Smith worked closely with many stakeholders, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, United States Citizen and Immigration Service, county prosecutors, Department of Public Safety, and community coalitions. He also promoted the development of the Safe Childhood initiative to provide services for those who were trafficked.

From 2015-2016, he worked in the United States Territory of American Samoa to bolster their prosecution efforts in human trafficking and fraud. In 2016, Mr. Smith returned to the mainland, to the Utah Attorney General's office, to become the Section Director of the SECURE Strike Force which investigates and prosecutes Human Trafficking throughout the state. In 2019, Mr. Smith became a Senior Prosecutor for the Utah County Attorney Special Victims' Unit and retired in the Fall of 2022. He continues to consult on human trafficking cases and participate in human trafficking education and awareness both domestically and internationally.

Mr. Smith is the Past President of the Nevada District Attorney's Association (2009) and the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence (2006-2008). He is a Past Commission Member of the Nevada Crime Commission. He is also the recipient of the Kristine Nagy-Johnson Award - For Dedicated Efforts in the Field of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention, Education & Treatment (2008).