Bio:

Elizer Darris is the executive director of Mission for Freedom (formerly Minnesota Freedom Fund), a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending oppressive and discriminatory systems of jailing and detention while building long-term pathways to stability for justice-impacted individuals. Since its founding, MFF has supported thousands of individuals navigating pretrial and immigration detention. Under Darris' leadership, the organization has evolved to respond to systemic issues, moving from transactional bail and immigration bond payments to community power-building and reimagined justice through three pillars: Free the People, Free the Courts, and Free the Vote.

A nationally recognized leader in criminal legal system reform, Darris brings lived experience and deep expertise to the fight to end mass incarceration and advance justice. In 2025, Darris was named an Obama Foundation USA Leader. That same year, he was selected as the Alum of the Year for Inver Hills Community College.

In 2024, he was selected as a Fellow into Harvard's Young American Leaders Program, named a Rising Young Professional awardee by Commerce and Finance Magazine, and awarded the Truth and Justice Award from the Twin Cities Urban League.

In 2023, his ongoing efforts were acknowledged with the Echoing Green Fellowship, highlighting his significant impact and unwavering dedication to societal change, and in 2022, he was recognized for his exceptional leadership, business acumen, and dedication to community as a 40 Under 40 awardee by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

Darris' 2021 appointment to the State Board of Public Defense by Governor Tim Walz was a historic achievement, making him the first formerly incarcerated person to hold such a position, reflecting his deep commitment to justice and reform.

Darris is also the Chief Vision Officer and founder of Darris Group LLC, a consultancy renowned for its expertise in political, governmental, NGO, and business strategies, with a strong emphasis on community-centered solutions. As a dynamic speaker, trainer, executive coach, and changemaker, his firm has become a prominent force in various sectors, including politics, where he has successfully managed numerous local and county-level campaigns.

