

JAMES CLIFTON (“CLIFF”) JOHNSON II

University of Mississippi School of Law

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EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

New York, New York

Juris Doctorate – 1992

- Charles Evans Hughes Fellow (recognition of students with demonstrated commitment to addressing legal problems of economically and culturally disadvantaged)
- *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*
- Jerome Michael Jury Trials

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Clinton, Mississippi

B.A. Political Science, *With High Honors and Special Distinction* – 1989

- Mississippi College Hall of Fame
- Mr. Mississippi College
- Student Body Vice President
- Student Body Senate President
- Student Body Attorney
- Debate Team President
- Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society President
- Outstanding Graduate in Pre-Law
- Young Democrats President
- Honors Thesis – *The End of Democratic Dominance: Republican Popularity and Growth in Mississippi Politics, 1977-1987*

WORK EXPERIENCE

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW AND
DIRECTOR, RODERICK AND SOLANGE
MACARTHUR JUSTICE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW**
University, Mississippi

2014 - Present

PIGOTT & JOHNSON, P.A.

2001 - 2014

Jackson, Mississippi

Shareholder and Founding Partner – handled wide variety of complex civil and criminal matters; litigated dozens of *qui tam* actions filed throughout United States under the federal False Claims Act; frequent interaction with Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and United States Attorney’s offices throughout country; lead defense counsel in numerous white-collar criminal matters; obtained eight-figure settlement for 20 victims of international investment fraud scheme; represented hundreds of private prison employees in successful Fair Labor Standards Act litigation against private prison company; represented thousands of factory employees in settlement of race

discrimination class action; represented death row inmate in federal appeals; represented six aerospace engineers in complex civil and criminal trade secret actions; led challenge of Senatobia, Mississippi youth court system that resulted in removal of youth court judge; challenged Mississippi "Personhood" initiative; successfully represented federal inmate in litigation arising from deprivation of health care; litigated LGBT discrimination matters; variety of pro bono and court-appointed matters

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR – PROFESSOR OF LAW **2005-2006**

Lund, Sweden

Taught (History and Law of American Civil Rights Movement) and conducted research (Influence of Anti-Immigrant Sentiments on Swedish Politics) as Fulbright Scholar at Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Lund University School of Law; lectured throughout Sweden, in Beijing and Wuhan, China and Sofia, Bulgaria on behalf of Wallenberg Institute

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE FOR
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI** **1996 - 2001**

Jackson, Mississippi

Assistant United States Attorney – Responsible for all civil health care fraud cases throughout district; handled criminal jury trials of cases involving complex fraud schemes; participated in jury trials of narcotics cases

BUTLER, SNOW, O’MARA, STEVENS & CANNADA **1993-1996**

Jackson, Mississippi

Associate – Handled variety of complex civil litigation; litigated federal "conditions of confinement" case; participated in federal habeas litigation

LAW CLERK TO HONORABLE WILLIAM H. BARBOUR, JR. **1992-1993**

Chief Judge, United States District Court for Southern District of Mississippi

LECTURES / TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Numerous lectures regarding civil rights litigation and criminal justice issues – 2014 – present
- Over 40 presentations locally and nationally to lawyers and other professionals concerning issues related to criminal and civil fraud actions
- TEDx Millsaps – “Initial Reactions and Final Conclusions” - 2017
- In addition to dozens of lectures during Fulbright fellowship, lectured in Sweden on numerous occasions from 2006-2012, including lecture at Nobel Museum in Stockholm and commencement address at Wallenberg Institute in Lund
- Moderator - *Developing a Human Rights Toolbox – An International Session for Practicing Lawyers* - annual week-long conference in Stockholm, Sweden - 2009-2012
- Harvard Law School - *The [Dis]United States: Diverse Experiences & Goals in LGBT Law* - Panelist - 2012
- Adjunct Professor – Trial Practice - Mississippi College School of Law

- Guest Lecturer - Mississippi College Masters of Health Administration program

PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member: Mississippi Bar, Magnolia Bar, United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, Fifth Circuit Bar, United States Supreme Court Bar
- Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (works to maintain separation of church and state) – National Board of Directors
- Alliance of Baptists – National Board of Directors
- Habitat for Humanity - Volunteer Coordinator
- New Horizon Ministries, Inc. - Board of Directors, Past Chair – Inner-city programs providing residential treatment for drug and alcohol abusers, after-school programs for inner-city youth, job training, and daycare
- American Inns of Court
- Mississippi Bar Association Minority Involvement Committee – Past Chair
- Stewpot Community Services - Board of Directors
- NAACP
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Lambda Legal (LGBT advocacy) – Mississippi Cooperating Counsel
- Northside Baptist Church – High School Sunday School Teacher; Deacon

HONORS/AWARDS

- **National Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year** – member of litigation team recognized for successfully challenging illegal bail practices - 2017
- **Inspector General's Integrity Award** – United States Department of Health and Human Services award recognizing outstanding service in protecting viability of federal health care programs
- **Top 40 Under 40** – Recognized by *Mississippi Business Journal* in 2003 as one of Mississippi's 40 most outstanding professionals under age 40
- **Distinguished Alumnus of the Year** - Mississippi College Department of History and Political Science - 2010
- **Mid-South Super Lawyers** – 2011-2014
- **Best Lawyers in America** - 2017