

JAMES CLIFTON (“CLIFF”) JOHNSON II

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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 Pre-Law Graduate
- 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

2014 - Present

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW

University, Mississippi

Director of Mississippi office of national civil rights law firm; Assistant Professor of Law responsible for directing MacArthur Justice Clinic and teaching substantive class addressing criminal justice, civil rights law, and civil rights litigation; litigated numerous civil rights cases, including matters challenging illegal bail practices, operation of debtors' prisons, conditions of confinement on Mississippi's Death Row, long-term incarceration of mentally ill detainees, jail suicide, wrongful registration of juvenile offenders on the Mississippi sex offender registry, deprivation of child custody as remedy for unpaid fines, and the failure to appoint counsel for indigent criminal defendants

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

- More than 100 lectures nationally and internationally regarding civil rights, criminal justice, and civil litigation (including Beijing, China; Wuhan, China; Sofia, Bulgaria; Nobel Museum and universities throughout Sweden; French Embassy in Washington, D.C.; and Harvard Law School)
- TEDx Millsaps – “Initial Reactions and Final Conclusions” - 2017
- Moderator - *Developing a Human Rights Toolbox – An International Session for Practicing Lawyers* - annual week-long conference in Stockholm, Sweden - 2009-2018

- Adjunct Professor – Trial Practice - Mississippi College School of Law
- Guest Lecturer - Mississippi College Masters of Health Administration program

HONORS/AWARDS

- **Mississippi Bar Foundation Fellow** – 2019 inductee – Highest honor of Mississippi Bar Foundation; recognizes professionalism, competence, and leadership
- **Trial Lawyer of the Year – Mississippi Association for Justice** - 2017-2018
- **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

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
- Friends of Chakchiuma Swamp – Board of Directors