

Honorable Judge Donald R. Johnson



Judge Donald R. Johnson is a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 1972, he graduated from Southern University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. In 1982 he earned his Juris Doctor degree from Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert School of Law. Immediately after graduation, he worked as an Assistant District Attorney with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office. During this period, he opened a private law office until his election to the City Court of Baton Rouge in 1999. In 2006, he was elected to the 19th Judicial District Court. He has served on Drug and Criminal divisions, and is currently serving in the Civil and Traffic divisions.

Judge Johnson holds a firm conviction that education is the key to his success. He has obtained ABD status toward his second doctoral degree in Judicial Studies at the National Judicial College. He obtained a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Administration with a doctoral minor in statistics from the University of Southern Mississippi in May 2014. In December 2009, he received his Master of Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada at Reno, the National Judicial College. In August 2008, he received a Master of Justice Management from the University of Nevada at Reno. In December 2006, he received a Master of Criminal Justice degree from Loyola University of New Orleans.

Judge Johnson has received certifications in many areas including, but not limited to, Classroom Management Skills, Grading and Evaluation, Collaborative Learning, Effective Facilitation of Learning, Judicial Philosophy and American Law, Judicial Development Dispute Resolution Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skill, Special Court Trial Skills, Planning and Presenting Effective Presentations, SPSS Training and Education Services, Grading Confidentiality and FERPA Regulations. Judge Johnson has served as facilitator of Criminal Justice at The University of Phoenix where he taught Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Contemporary Issues, and Futures in Criminal Justice. At the University of Nevada at Reno, he taught Conducting the Trial and Criminal Justice. Judge Johnson has encouraged a high degree of student involvement relevant issues and using an interactive teaching style, to explain all aspects of trial procedure. He also taught "Co-Occurring Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders" at the National Judicial College to help judges around the nation to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities to fairly adjudicate citizens with co-occurring disabilities.

Judge Johnson has received numerous honors and awards over the past thirty years. These include the Black History Pioneer Award, the Distinguished Community Service Award, Honorary Secretary of State of Louisiana, and the Gus Young Non-Violence Committee Humanitarian Award. Judge Johnson is available for public speaking engagements at service

organizations, churches, prisons, and community centers. Inquiries can be made to his office if there is an interest in facilitating a conversation on matters such as criminal law, criminal procedure, criminal justice reform, contemporary legal issues, future opportunities in criminal justice, ethics, trial advocacy, the adjudication of citizens with mental and substance abuse disorders, traffic court sanctions, and safe driving education.