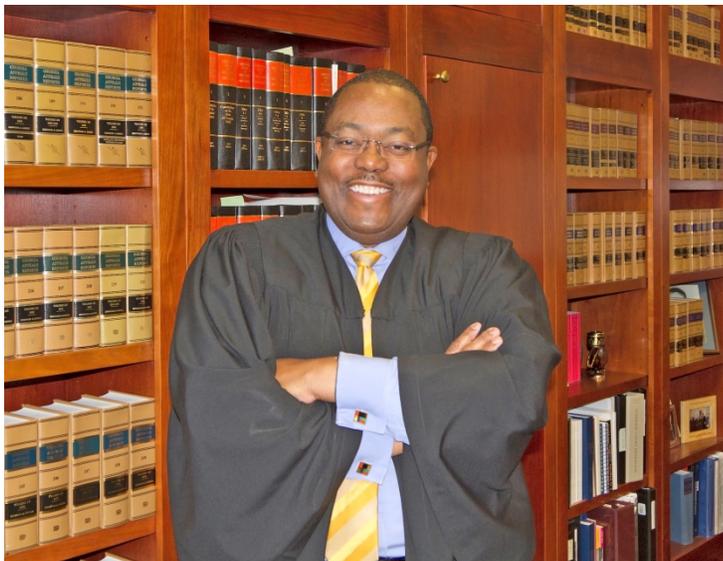




ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT...

The Honorable Horace Johnson, Newton County Superior Court Judge Class of 1975



A native of Newton County, Horace Johnson takes great pride in the education he received while attending the Newton County School System (NCSS). Now a superior court judge for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, the Newton County Comprehensive High School 1975 honors graduate reflected on his school days.

“How did NCSS prepare me?” he asked. “I can say succinctly that they served me very well! I was well prepared for my classes when I entered Oxford, attaining my first ‘A’ in English Composition my very first quarter due in notable part to the great teaching of Sarah Francis Hardeman (who also taught my Dad), Paula Travis

(diagramming those sentences) and Joann White (my senior composition teacher who everybody loved to hate and from whom everybody learned how to write, well.)”

After earning that first “A” in English Composition, Judge Johnson went on to obtain an Associate of Arts Degree from Oxford College. He then transferred to Emory School of Business, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree. He attained his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Georgia in 1982 and was admitted to the Georgia Bar that same year.

Judge Johnson is a graduate of Leadership Newton County, Leadership DeKalb County, and Leadership Georgia. He has used those leadership skills to support his local community in a myriad of capacities, including serving as the Past President of the Arts Association of Newton County. He has also served on the Board of Counselors of Oxford College of Emory University; the Board of Trustees of the Leadership Georgia Foundation; the Board of Directors of United Bank (Covington Division); and the Board of Directors of the Washington Street Community Center. He was a founding Board of Director of Newton Mentoring, Inc. and is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Covington Kiwanis Club.

Judge Johnson’s professional accomplishments are just as numerous as his community involvement activities. He currently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the State of Georgia Council of Superior Court Judges and has served as a designated judge on the Georgia Supreme Court. Judge Johnson was appointed by the Chief Justice to serve on the Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Committee. Other

appointments include the Judicial Council Access, Fairness and Public Trust & Confidence Committee and the Council's Domestic Violence Committee. In addition to his regular court dockets, Judge Johnson presides over a Parental Accountability Court, addressing child support matters in both Newton and Walton Counties.

Judge Johnson met and married the love of his life, Michelle and together they are the proud parents of two sons—H. James, III, a graduate of The College of William & Mary and Bryant, a sophomore at Stanford University. Judge and Mrs. Johnson are active members of Columbia Drive United Methodist Church, where Judge Johnson serves as a Lay Leader and a member of the Chancel and Gospel Choirs. According to Judge Johnson, the education provided by Newton County School System helped pave the way to his present day success.

“As a child who was directly a part of school integration, I was confident in myself whatever the circumstances,” he explained. “The lessons learned both in the classrooms and outside of them in Newton County Schools certainly provided me a strong foundation on which the challenges that came later were navigable. I give credit to those lessons as an integral part of my latter successes. As a parent now of NCSS graduates, that credit has been overwhelmingly affirmed!”

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