

HON. MICHELLE A. JOHNSON

BIOGRAPHY

Michelle A. Johnson (formerly Armstrong) commenced her legal career as a prosecutor at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York. From 1992 to 2003, Ms. Johnson quickly rose through the ranks as an assistant district attorney. By 1996, the District Attorney selected Ms. Johnson to join an elite group of ADA's in the Homicide Bureau, where she prosecuted Brooklyn's high-profile homicide cases. Between 1999 and 2002, Ms. Johnson was promoted 3 times from Deputy Bureau Chief to Bureau Chief of a felony trial unit to Executive Assistant District Attorney of a specialized trial bureau - The School Crimes Bureau. She served as the District Attorney's liaison to the New York City Department of Education where she advised and trained school officials, school safety agents, and police officers on legal issues pertaining to criminal investigations on school grounds. Ms. Johnson gained national attention making numerous television appearances on "Court TV" as a guest commentator profiling high publicity homicide cases in other states. She also served for 2 years as "visiting faculty" at Emory Law School's renowned Trial Techniques Course for first year law students in Atlanta, Georgia.

In November 2003, Ms. Johnson resigned from the District Attorney's Office to serve as Supervisory General Attorney at the U.S. Department of Education's, New York Office for Civil Rights where she supervised a team of attorney's and investigators responsible for enforcing civil rights laws barring discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in the educational setting. In April 2006, Ms. Johnson opened the doors to her own boutique law firm, The Armstrong Law Firm, PLLC, specializing in criminal defense, family & divorce law, and real estate transactions in the five boroughs of New York City, and Nassau and Suffolk Counties. She is admitted to practice law in New York State and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

In September 2011, then Mayor, Hon. Michael Bloomberg, appointed Judge Johnson to the judiciary as an Interim Civil Court Judge from September 2011 to December 2011; re-appointed her from January 2012 to December 2012; and appointed her to the New York City Criminal Court from January 2013 to December 2022. Since 2011, Judge Johnson has presided over thousands of cases from arraignment through trial. She has authored over 100 decisions on various legal issues to date; over 10 of which have been published in the Miscellaneous Reports; accepted for online publication; or published in the New York Law Journal. In January 2016, the Chief Judge of New York State appointed Judge Johnson as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court and Supervising Judge of the Queens County Criminal Court. In that role, Judge Johnson supervised fourteen (14) judges presiding over criminal matters at the Queens County Criminal Court; and was responsible for the overall administrative operation of the court. She also trained new judges ascending to the bench on the practical nuts and bolts of transitioning from advocacy to resolving legal disputes and calendar management. In November 2020, the residents of Queens County elected Justice Johnson to the New York State Supreme Court for the 11th Judicial District where she currently presides.

Justice Johnson is the first-born American citizen in her entire family; and the first-born child of parents who migrated to the United States from the Republic of Panama. She attended elementary and public high school in Brooklyn and Queens, New York. She attended Hampton University, a historically black college/university where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, *cum laude*, in 1989. While a college student in 1988, she joined the illustrious sisterhood of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a public service organization. She obtained a full academic scholarship to law school, and in 1992, earned a Juris Doctor of Law Degree from The National Law Center at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She is currently a member of the Judicial Friends Association; Latino Lawyers & Judges Association; Queens County Women's Bar Association; the Long Island Chapter of the National Hampton Alumnae Association; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Nassau Alumnae Chapter.

She is the proud wife of John Bell; mother of two sons, Miles and Lance Armstrong (both Morehouse Men); and daughter of two Panamanian immigrants, Vilma Osborne and Sherwin H. Johnson, Jr.