

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Robert Johnson, '66



A native New Yorker, Robert Johnson was born in the Bronx, and raised in the Amsterdam Houses on W. 61st Street. After he attended Power Memorial High School for three years, his family returned to the Bronx where he graduated from James Monroe High School.

Robert Johnson graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy from the City College of New York (1972), and with a J.D. from New York University School of Law (1975). From 1975 to 1978, he was a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society, and for the next eight years a Bronx Assistant District Attorney. In August of 1986, he was appointed a Judge of the New York City Criminal Court, and shortly thereafter promoted to Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, where he served until 1988 when he successfully ran for the office of District Attorney.

Robert Johnson has been a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court since January 1, 2016. He sits in the Civil Term of Bronx Supreme Court where he primarily hears cases involving Mental Hygiene Law Article 81 Guardianships.

Previously, Justice Johnson was the Bronx District Attorney from 1989 through 2015. He was the first African-American District Attorney in the history of New York State. Moreover, in 2005, he became the longest-serving District Attorney in Bronx history.

Mr. Johnson, a United States Navy Veteran, has served as President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, and as a member of several boards, including the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board.

In 1997, the Criminal Justice Section of the New York State Bar Association awarded Robert Johnson the David S. Michaels Memorial Award for Courageous Efforts in Promoting Integrity in the Criminal Justice System.

Justice Johnson, the father of four sons, is married to Appellate Division First Department Justice Dianne Renwick and resides in the Bronx with his family.