

## HON. CASSANDRA A. JOHNSON

### **RATINGS**

Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission: “Highly Qualified” for Judge of the Civil Court, Eleventh Judicial District (2018)

New York City Bar Association: “Approved” for Civil Court Judge (2021)

Queens County Bar Association: “Highly Qualified” for Civil Court Judge (2021)

Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association: “Highly Qualified” for Civil Court Judge (2021)

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County**

*Judge*

January 2022 to

Present Elected, Fourth Municipal District, November 2021

Preside over General Civil and Small Claims parts, as well as jury trials transferred from Supreme Court where damages sought exceed the \$50,000.00 jurisdictional limit of Civil Court.

#### **Supreme Court, Queens County, Jamaica, New York**

*Court Attorney Referee*

January 2017 to December 2021

Conducted trials and hearings. Researched and analyzed complex legal questions and issues raised in civil cases. Drafted decisions and orders. Conferred with attorneys on unusual or complex cases. Presided over matrimonial and residential foreclosure settlement conferences. Mediated commercial cases as part of the statewide Presumptive Alternative Dispute Resolution initiative.

Panelist: Statewide Foreclosure Continuing Legal Education for the NYS Unified Court System

Trainings: Initial and Advanced Certified Civil/Commercial Mediation Trainings

Working Groups: Do-It-Yourself step-by-step computer programs; Statewide Foreclosure Working Group, chaired by the Chief of Policy and Planning

*Law Secretary*, Hon. Denis J. Butler, J.S.C.

January 2016 to December

2016 Conducted research and drafted decisions and orders in civil cases. Prepared jury instructions and verdict sheets. Conducted settlement and charge conferences. Advised the judge on confidential matters.

*Law Secretary*, Hon. Orin R. Kitzes, J.S.C.

April 2013 to January 2016

Conducted research and drafted decisions and orders in commercial cases. Conducted compliance, settlement and pre-trial conferences. Advised the judge on confidential matters.

*Senior Court Attorney*, Law Department

October 2012 to April

2013 Conducted research and drafted decisions and orders on a wide range of issues, including labor law, tort, contract, serious injury and malpractice.

*Assistant Law Clerk*, Hon. Pam Jackman Brown, J.S.C.

September 2010 to October

2012 Conducted research, prepared bench memoranda, and drafted decisions and orders in matrimonial and civil cases. Conducted preliminary, compliance, settlement and pre-trial conferences. Assisted attorneys draft agreements. Advised the judge on confidential matters.

**New York City Human Resources Administration, New York, New York**

*Staff Attorney*, Litigation and Program Counseling Unit April 2008 to September 2010

Represented the Agency with Corporation Counsel in class action lawsuits involving the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the takings clause, substantive due process, the equal protection clause, and federal and state labor law. Defended the Agency in Article 78 proceedings and other civil lawsuits. Co-authored a manual on the effect of the ADA on access to public benefits. Collaborated with the IT Department on eDiscovery. Advised the Agency on proposed legislation and the legal risk of existing and new business activities. Completed training on Oracle Discoverer for the Agency's Data Warehouse.

Award: Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity Award, recognizing outstanding work performance (July 2009)

Trainings: Oracle Discoverer, a business intelligence tool for analyzing data; HRA/Hunter College's Management and Supervision Training program

*Staff Attorney*, Child Support Litigation Unit November 2007 to April 2008

Represented HRA in paternity, support and enforcement proceedings. Researched and prepared pleadings, objections and rebuttals as well as legal memoranda for cases on appeal.

**Law Offices of Andrée Sylvestre, Brooklyn, New York**

*Associate* August 2006 to November 2007

Participated in all phases of litigation, including discovery, motion practice, court conferences, settlement negotiations and hearings. Represented clients in paternity, custody, child support and adoption proceedings, real estate transactions, bankruptcy, estate planning, and probate and estate administration matters. Advised clients on title, zoning, tenant and warranty concerns.

**EDUCATION**

**St. John's University School of Law, Jamaica, New York**

Juris Doctor, June 2006

Award: Outstanding Student Award, National Association of Women Lawyers (2006)

Activities: Managing Editor (2005 to 2006) & Staff Editor (2004 to 2005), NY Real Property Law Journal; Writer & Secretary, Admiralty Law Practicum (2004 to 2005); Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition (2004 to 2005); President (2005 to 2006) & Treasurer (2004 to 2005), Black Law Students Association

Internships: Magistrate Judge William Wall (2006); NYC Transit Authority (2005); Elder Law Clinic (2005); Office of the Capital Defender (2004)

Research Assistant: Professor Mary Lyndon (2004)

**St. John's University, Jamaica, New York**

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Minor in French, May 2003

Honors: Dean's List; Pi Mu Epsilon, National Honorary Mathematics Society (2002)

Activities: Mathematics Club; Mathematics tutor; Taught in a mathematics senior seminar

**PUBLICATIONS**

Robert L. Haig, Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts: Commercial Leasing (4th edition of West's New York Practice Series) (contributing writer with Justice Orin R. Kitzes, Mark S.

Mulholland, Robert S. Nash and Robert Ward)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Queens County Women's Bar Association: Corresponding Secretary (2022); Member, Board of Directors (2018 to 2022); Co-Chair, Mentorship Committee (2020 to present); Chair, Awards Committee (2017 to present); Member, Member Wellness Committee (2018 to present); Member, Domestic Violence Committee (2018 to present); State Delegate (2017 to 2018)

Women's Bar Association of the State of New York: Co-Chair, Collaborative Law Committee (2020 to present); Member, Awards Committee (2017 to present); Member, Domestic Violence Committee, (2018 to present); Member, Arbitration and Mediation Committee (2018 to present)

Association of Law Secretaries to the Justices of the Supreme and Surrogates' Courts in the City of New York: First Vice-President (2019 to 2021); Member, CLE Committee (2014 to 2021); Member, Wellness Committee (2014 to present); Member, By-Laws Committee (2018 to 2021); Second Vice-President (2018 to 2019); Queens Delegate (2014 to 2018)

Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association: Corresponding Secretary (2021 to present)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Association of Women Judges (2022)

The Judicial Friends Association (2022)

New York American Inns of Court (Alumni)

Catholic Lawyer's Guild of Queens County (2016 to present)

Haitian American Lawyers Association (2018 to 2019)

The Association of Arbitrators of the New York City Civil Court, Small Claims Part (2018 to 2021)

### **ACTIVITIES**

St. John's University: Council member, Equity and Inclusion Council (2020 to present)

Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission Mentor Program (2020 to present)

National Association for the Advancement of Color People, Jamaica Branch: Chair, Nominations Committee (2020)

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Hollis, NY: distribute food and supplies (2020 to 2021)

Read Across America (2011 to 2019)

Youth Conferences at Eglise Baptiste de la Parousie, Laurelton, NY (2019)

National Institute of Trial Advocacy's Tournament of Champions

Ronald H. Brown Summer Prep Program

Jamaica NAACP Day Care Center: Board Member (2009 to 2014); Secretary (2009 to 2014)

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

New York (3/2007); Connecticut (10/2006); SDNY (2007); EDNY (2007)