



Lillian O. Johnson

Executive Director

Lillian O. Johnson serves as the Executive Director of Community Legal Services, a position she has held since 1982. After graduating from Howard University, she began her legal services career while in law school at the University of Chicago, Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. Upon graduation from law school she served as a staff attorney and managing attorney for Chicago's largest legal aid program, the Chicago Legal Aid Program.

In her position as Executive Director, Ms. Johnson is responsible for the administration and oversight of Arizona's largest nonprofit civil legal aid program, with offices in five counties, a budget of \$7 million, and a staff of over 80, including 28 attorneys.

Ms. Johnson has been a passionate advocate for equal access to justice for those who could not afford to pay for it throughout her legal career. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association as well as several taskforces and committees, both on the national and local level, working to increase access to legal services and improve the quality of life for low and moderate-income families.

In 2011, Ms. Johnson was honored as a White House Champion of Change as a part of President Barack Obama's Winning the Future Initiative; wherein they highlighted her everlasting commitment to access to justice for all throughout her career.

In 2013, Ms. Johnson was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar Association's Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame's goal is to honor in perpetuity those remarkable individuals who have built the legal profession in this county and beyond, who have made extraordinary contributions to the law and justice, and who have distinguished themselves at the highest levels of public service.

In February of 2014, Ms. Johnson was a featured person and an honoree of the Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc., the Phoenix Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Inc., Gamma Mu Chapter of Phoenix. This program honors the community's most distinguished citizens in the Art of Jurisprudence.

In November 2014, the William E. Morris Institute for Justice honored Ms. Johnson with the Hero Award for Access to Justice.

Ms. Johnson's career-long commitment to "access to justice for all" has been at the heart of her enormous contribution to providing equal access to justice for low-income and moderate-income families.