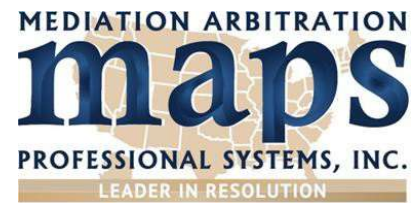


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2024

LA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE JOINS MEDIATION, ARBITRATION PANEL

Honorable Bernette Joshua Johnson to serve on Panel of Neutrals for New Orleans-based resolution firm, Mediation, Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. (maps).

maps Mediation & Arbitration is proud to welcome the **Honorable Bernette Joshua Johnson**, former Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, to its Panel of Neutrals. Chief Justice Johnson now serves as a **maps mediator and arbitrator**.

“We are so excited to have the Chief on our Panel,” said Joe Hassinger, owner and managing director of **maps**. “She served the Court and the citizens of Louisiana with such distinction, and she will bring her wisdom, experience and neutrality to the mediation and arbitration tables. It is an honor to have her as part of the **maps** team,” he added.

Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson was first elected to serve on the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994, and was re-elected without opposition in 2000. In 2013, she became the second female Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the first African-American Chief Justice. She retired in December 2020 after having served with honor for more than a quarter of a century.

Chief Justice Johnson began her judicial career in 1984, when she was the first woman elected to the Civil District Court of New Orleans, where she was later elected as Chief Judge by her colleagues. As a civil trial judge in Domestic Relations Court, she established a system to refer custody, alimony, and child support issues to mediation prior to court appearances. Her trial experience also included matters involving automobile accidents, workers compensation, insurance claims, asbestos and Jones Act claims.

“It is the culmination of these experiences that makes me an ideal mediator for many of the claims that are presented to **maps**,” Chief Justice Johnson said. “I am thrilled to be able to bring my knowledge and experience to the mediation arena to help others resolve these important matters. It is with great anticipation that I begin this new journey with **maps**,” she concluded.

Chief Justice Johnson was one of the first African-American women to attend the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University, where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1969. After having served as the Managing Attorney with the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, Chief Justice Johnson joined the City Attorney’s staff in 1981 and later became a Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans where she attained extensive trial experience in the Civil District Court and U.S. District Court.

Chief Justice Johnson was inducted into the LSU Law Center's Hall of Fame in 1996, and is the recipient of numerous awards, including: the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award; the National Bar Association's Outstanding Service Award; the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Distinguished Jurist Award; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Torch Bearer Award; the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society President's Award; the Medal of Honor presented by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans; and the Ernest N. Morial Award, among many others.

For much of her career, Chief Justice Johnson has worked as an advocate for social justice, civil rights, and community organizing. In 1998, she was the Chairperson of the National Bar Association-Judicial Council. Chief Justice Johnson organized the first Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. She is a member of the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court. She has served as an Adjunct Faculty member at Tulane University Law School, and as an Adjunct Professor at Southern University, New Orleans. She has published numerous editorials, essays, legal opinions, and other scholarly works throughout her career.

In addition to her judicial responsibilities, Chief Justice Johnson has been actively involved in serving the community. Chief Justice Johnson is a member of the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church. She is an active member of Omicron Nu Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and an alumnae member of the New Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc. She has also served as a Member of the National Alumnae Association Spelman College; a Member of the Martin Luther King National Holiday Planning Committee; a Member of the Board of Directors of the Young Women Christian Association; and a Life Member of the NAACP.

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About: maps is a mediation and arbitration firm based in New Orleans, with additional locations in Mandeville and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As the Leader in Resolution, **maps** provides its clients with an unparalleled panel of neutrals who mediate and arbitrate cases throughout the United States. www.maps-adr.com.