

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON

Jeh Johnson is a partner in the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP and the former Secretary of Homeland Security (2013-2017). Prior to that, Johnson was General Counsel of the Department of Defense (2009-2012), General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force (1998-2001), and an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (1989-1991).

Johnson has been affiliated with Paul Weiss on and off since 1984, became the firm's first African American partner in 1994, and is currently a member of the firm's Management and Partnership Committees.

Johnson is the 2018 recipient of the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award, presented at the Reagan Presidential Library, for "contribut[ing] greatly to the defense of our nation," and "guiding us through turbulent times with courage and wisdom." In June 2020 the Chief Judge of New York asked Johnson to undertake a comprehensive review of racial bias in the state court system. On October 1, 2020 Johnson delivered a 100-page public report with a number observations and recommendations, all of which the Chief Judge will adopt.

Johnson is currently a director or trustee of Lockheed Martin, U.S. Steel, Columbia University, the Council on Foreign Relations, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the Center for a New American Security, and WBGO, an FM radio station based in Newark, New Jersey.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, Johnson was the head of the third largest cabinet department of the U.S. government, consisting of 230,000 personnel and 22 components, including TSA, Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Services, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, and FEMA. Johnson's responsibilities as Secretary included counterterrorism, cybersecurity, aviation security, border security, port security, maritime security, protection of our national leaders, the detection of chemical, biological and nuclear threats to the homeland, and response to natural disasters. In three years as Secretary of DHS, Johnson is credited with management reform of the Department, which brought about a more centralized approach to decision-making in the areas of budgets, acquisition and overall policy. Johnson also raised employee morale across the Department, reflected in the September 2016 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.

Johnson is a graduate of Morehouse College (1979) and Columbia Law School (1982) and the recipient of 10 honorary degrees.