



**E. Christopher Johnson Jr.**  
***Center for Justice, Rights & Dignity (Center)***

CEO and Co-Founder, Center for Justice, Rights & Dignity (Center) and retired GM North America Vice President and General Counsel, attributes his accomplishments to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who, throughout his life, has surrounded him with many loving and supportive family members, friends and colleagues who have continually and significantly contributed to his growth and development. This includes his late parents and first wife Sheryl, his current wife Rhonda, a senior bank executive, daughter Erin, an attorney and adjunct professor at Howard University, son Chip, Vice President Partnership Strategy, College Sports at WarnerMedia, and granddaughter Souluna.

Following his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1973, Johnson served as an Army officer in Alaska and New Jersey and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal primarily for his leadership accomplishments in arctic logistics in the northernmost infantry battalion in the United States Army. After his Honorable Discharge, he graduated from New York Law School with Honors in 1981, serving as president of the Student Bar Association.

A significant life altering event occurred in Johnson's life during a 2011 mission trip to Mumbai, India where he and his wife Rhonda were exposed to the injustice, enormity and brutality of human trafficking leading to them forming the Center which is committed to social justice causes including fighting human trafficking and racism among others through Johnson's roles as: Board Chair of the Men's Advocacy Group of New Friends New Life in Dallas, Texas, Board President of the Michigan Abolitionist Project, Chair of the ABA Business



Law Section's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee, a leader in the development and implementation of the ABA Model Principles and Policies on Labor Trafficking and Child Labor (ABA Model Principles), a leader of numerous diversity and educational pipeline initiatives over the years, and his prolific writing and speaking on anti-human trafficking, diversity, CSR and other justice and professionalism issues. His expertise in addressing labor trafficking in corporate supply chains was developed over the years with his military service as a logistics officer, at GM as a purchasing attorney and through his work with the ABA Business Law Section on the ABA Model Principles and as chair of the CSR Committee.

Johnson started his legal career in 1981 with a prominent New York City law firm eventually joining the GM Legal Staff in 1988 where he would rise through the ranks from GM's computer law attorney and a purchasing attorney to the position of GM North America Vice President and General Counsel. In this position, which he held for the last seven years in a twenty-year GM Career, Johnson led the provision of all legal services to GM's largest region covering the U.S., Canada and Mexico through a staff of approximately 250 legal professionals (110 attorneys) and over 400 outside law firms. After his 2008 retirement from GM, Johnson joined the faculty at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School where he served as a law professor and director/founder of the LL.M. program in Corporate Law and Finance until leaving to form the Center with his wife in 2013. Among the courses he taught was one he co-developed called Slavery and Trafficking.

He has served in significant leadership positions in the Bar, at the local, state, and national level, in the community and has received numerous honors and awards for this service and his career accomplishments.