



#### THE JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR. Institute

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

### FOSTERING CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION THROUGH HISTORY

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2022 was the beginning of big things for The Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute. Visitors began returning in droves for tours of the Frank Johnson Courthouse. We kicked off our in-person Johnson Institute Scholars program with multi-day conferences. And the Institute staff quadrupled to four so that we could meet the growing need to learn about Montgomery's civil rights history and for Constitutional education.

As the pandemic subsided, the Johnson Institute welcomed over 600 visitors to the Frank Johnson Courthouse, with nearly half of those coming in the fourth quarter of the year. School and business groups, clubs, and tourists traveling the U.S. Civil Rights Trail contacted the Johnson Institute to learn more about our namesake and visit America's Courtroom. We were thrilled to welcome the guests and help them to understand the critical role courts play in our society.

Over the summer, we launched the Johnson Institute Scholars program for middle and high school teachers. It received rave reviews for content and quality. "At the top of the professional development that I have received," is how one educator described the conference that dives into the judiciary and historic court cases. Another succinctly stated that the program is "simply outstanding." We were thrilled to launch this program and get such outstanding feedback.

Come visit, take a tour, or sign up to attend one of our events. Stay in touch as we continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Thou- Rails

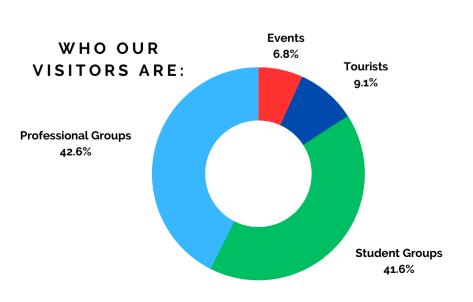
Thomas Rains Executive Director

The Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute is a non-partisan voice that shares the stories of our Constitution and our Judiciary through programs that illuminate issues and perspectives, foster thoughtful and civil discourse, and inspire our national community in our nation's never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union.

#### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In the Summer of 2022, the Johnson Institute held its inaugural in-person Scholars Program. These professional development conferences are offered to middle and high school civics and social studies educators and include classes on the judiciary generally, components of civil and criminal cases, and historic landmark cases that Judge Johnson presided over. Educators from all over Alabama and as far away as Maryland came to Montgomery and received quality content to incorporate into their classrooms.

The Johnson Institute saw a proof of concept when teachers who attended the Scholars conferences returned to the Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building with over 150 students. Growth over the 4th quarter helped to bring our visitors total over 600 visitors for the year. Meanwhile, the Johnson Institute increased its capacity, with Caroline Harris joining as Education Coordinator.







"The Johnson Institute ranks at the top of the professional development I have received. The staff was so friendly. I am a better teacher for attending this wonderful experience."

-Summer Scholar



### LAW DAY 2022

The 2022 Law Day theme asked: How has the U.S. Constitution changed, and what does it mean for those who live in our country? To find out, the Johnson Institute went to an expert, J. Mason Davis, Jr., to discuss the 2022 Law Day theme, "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change." Davis, now retired, spent his career as an attorney in Alabama, beginning as one of the first African-American attorneys in the state.

The Johnson Institute interview, conducted by a middle school social studies teacher, is geared toward middle and high school students. Teachers can watch the video in class or assign it as homework and use the included discussion questions.

https://www.thejohnsoninstitute.org/law-day-2022

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Johnson Institute:

- Can cater PROGRAMMING to your group.
- Provides free RESOURCES to teachers and students.
- Gives regular courthouse TOURS by appointment.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS HELPING TO BUILD OUR MISSION:**

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#### CONTACT US FOR A TOUR

WE ARE FOCUSED ON CIVICS AND CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION USING HISTORICAL EVENTS TO TEACH ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. THE JOHNSON INSTITUTE OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY FOR LEADERS, CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS, AND GROUPS TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION.

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