



Michelle T. Johnson was born and grew up in Kansas City (in the state of Kansas). She wears many hats: diversity consultant, certified mediator, speaker, legal analyst and writer. She was also a former journalist and a labor lawyer for several years. More specifically about her journalistic path, Michelle T. Johnson received her degree in this field in 1986. She became a commentator on National Public Radio (“NPR”) and a diversity columnist in the Business section of the Kansas City, Missouri’s daily newspaper as of January 2008 called “Diversity Diva”. She also worked as a newspaper journalist at the Philadelphia Daily News, the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Austin American-Statesman.

Michelle T. Johnson attended the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, where in 1994 she was named by the Missouri Supreme Court as the Top Moot Court Oralist of her law school. She received her juris doctorate in 1995 from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. From 1995 till 1999, she was a law associate for *Husch Blackwell Sander LLC*, one of the largest firms in Missouri. From 2000 until 2003, she held the position of counsel attorney for

Fisher & Phillips

. From 2006 until 2010, she was an independent contractor/legal analyst for the law firm *Shook Hardy Bacon*

. She also represented companies and organizations in employment litigation, such as Hallmark Cards, the Kansas City, Missouri School Districts, Deffenbaugh Industries, DST, Kansas City Power and Light, and Interstate Brands Corporation (IBC). Johnson did mediations for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Missouri Human Relations Department and private mediations, etc. Moreover, she has been appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to be a member of its Kansas Advisory Committee. Later, she opened her own law firm and briefly worked as a solo practitioner.

Michelle T. Johnson speaks on diversity issues and conducts diversity workshops for several organizations, businesses and colleges across the country, including H&R Block, Hallmark Cards, and several municipalities. She is very open-minded and this year presented a workshop to ex-offenders who were preparing to enter the workforce. In other words, she offers her expertise to businesses of all kinds, schools, governments, organizations, and individuals who often need guidance in managing issues of diversity in their workplaces. In this regard, Johnson has a Diversity Diva Consulting firm which specializes in providing customized diversity training to fit the budget and goals of an organization or individual. It also mediates conflicts related to employment issues and conducts workplace investigations as well as helping organizations with their writing and communication needs.

Written by Patricia Turnier
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Johnson, a certified mediator, is the author of articles and books on diversity, including the compelling *Working While Black*, published in 2004 and re-edited last year. The former president of Bennett College for women, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, wrote the foreword of this book. Dr. Cornel West endorsed *Working While Black* as did Keith H. Williamson, President of Pitney Bowes Global Credit Services, who was named by *Fortune* as one as the Top 50 Black executives in the U.S. This book, a career guide for African-American employees in the workplace, has been mentioned and reviewed in several national magazines.

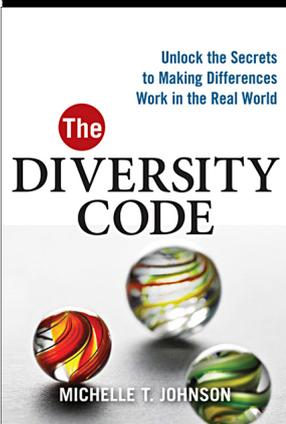
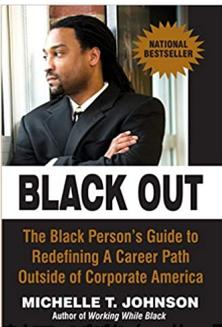
The author has an interesting writing style, which makes her book informative and humorous without sugar-coating the complex issues and difficulties encountered by Black people in the workplace, particularly in corporate settings. *Working While Black* is one of the best books penned by an employment legalist. It covers many themes related to the workplace: diversity, the glass ceiling, equity, discrimination, and so on. This book was part of our Top 20 Books for Spring 2012: <http://megadiversity.com/index>

Michelle T. Johnson's second book is *Black Out: The Black person's Guide to Redefining a Career Path Outside of Corporate America*. It exposes readers to the choices made by hundreds of thousands of African-Americans who challenged themselves by leaving Corporate America to become world-renowned and very wealthy people like Bob Johnson and Oprah Winfrey who followed their passions and achieve their dreams. *Black Out* was endorsed by prominent people such as Terrie Williams, the founder of The Terrie Williams Agency and the renowned author George C. Fraser. Johnson's third and latest book *The Diversity Code: Unlock the Secrets to Making Differences Work in the Real World* was published in 2010. The title of the book is a wink to

The Da Vinci Code

. The author defines diversity by any and all differences – visible and invisible, large and seemingly small – which have the potential to impact a workplace. The book sheds light on several issues related to diversity and looks at several cases which raise compelling questions and provide valuable insight while offering solutions applied to the different situations which may occur in the workplace. Overall, Michelle Johnson's books are far from being unnoticed, we can find them outside of the U.S., in other countries such as Canada.

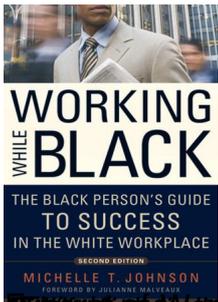
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Exclusive Interview With Author/Jurist: Michelle T. Johnson J.D.

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