

JEFFERSON DEEMS JOHNSON, JR., earnest advocate, respected counsel, able organizer and moulder of public opinion, has achieved solid and lasting recognition as a trial and appellate judge who constantly re-appraises the conservative traditions of the law and re-interprets and applies them to the growing and changing needs of a progressive society. Born in Garland, Sampson County, June 6, 1903, he received his A. B. degree and his legal training at Trinity College--now Duke University--in the mid-twenties. Beginning the practice of law in Clinton, North Carolina, he gradually forged ahead to leadership in the bar of eastern North Carolina. Elected to the State Senate in 1937, he served several terms with distinction and in 1941 began his illustrious judicial career as a Special Judge of the Superior Court. Manager of the senatorial campaign of J. Melville Broughton in 1948 and that of Frank P. Graham in 1950, he has, since 1950, served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. A dedicated and industrious jurist under constant pressure of heavy litigation, he drives himself without stint, striving constantly not only to do justice in the particular case but to do that justice within the frame of our accepted legal and governmental tradition.

The University, in recognizing his labors upon the Court as a living exemplification of this ideal, ever implicit in judicial statesmanship, is happy to bestow on him the Degree of Doctor of Laws.