

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
UDC Resolution 2019 - 04**

SUBJECT: Conferral of Honorary Degree upon Jeh Johnson, Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees has authority to award degrees and to establish policy with respect to the award of degrees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §315.2, the President, upon consultation with the Honorary Degree Committee and the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Jeh Johnson be awarded an honorary degree for his contributions to our nation as a public servant in a range of leadership positions spanning several decades, including service as the General Counsel of both the U.S. Department of the Air Force and of the Department of Defense, before his appointment by President Barack Obama to the role of U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security (2013 – 2017). In that position, he exhibited high intellect, strength, and compassion on the national and international stage, crafting and implementing policies and practices to address a range of national and international challenges to our nation. In addition, his talents as an attorney, as well as his service on various public and private boards and professional associations, and the award of eight honorary degrees and his recognition as the 2018 Ronald Reagan “Peace Through Strength” awardee help make him an outstanding role model leader and example of the positive influence a public servant can have in our society; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §315.3, the Board of Trustees must approve the recommendation of Jeh Johnson by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (¾) of the members present at the meeting of the Board following the meeting at which the recommendation was made.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby approves the recommendation of the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Jeh Johnson, with all the honors, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.

Submitted by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee

February 13, 2019

Approved by the Board of Trustees

February 26, 2019


Christopher Bell
Chairperson of the Board

Fiscal Impact Statement

TO: The Board of Trustees
FROM: Managing Director of Finance *David A. Franklin*
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Honorary Degree upon Jeh Johnson, JD

Conclusion

It is concluded that there is no fiscal impact associated with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) awarding an honorary degree upon Jeh Johnson.

Background

The President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Jeh Johnson be awarded an honorary degree for his significant contributions and accomplishments as a public servant. While he has returned to private law practice as a Partner of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, Johnson's past career includes his appointment by President Barack Obama as the 4th U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security (2013 – 2017). He is cited for distinguished service in a range of leadership positions including General Counsel of both the U.S. Department of the Air Force and of the Department of Defense, before ascending to the role of Secretary of Homeland Security. He helped frame the U.S.'s response to immigration, natural disasters, the Ebola disease, in addition to the threats from terrorism. He has served on several private and public boards, as well as professional associations. He is the recipient of nine honorary degrees and was named the 2018 recipient of the Ronald Reagan "Peace Through Strength" Award.

Financial Impact

Based on the information provided, we do not anticipate any fiscal impact.

Proposed Recipient of Honorary Degree for
UDC's Spring Commencement

Jeh Johnson

Partner

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP

Jeh Johnson is being recognized for his contributions to our nation as a public servant. His range of leadership positions included serving as General Counsel of both the U.S. Department of the Air Force and of the Department of Defense, before ascending to the role of Secretary of Homeland Security. Appointed by President Barack Obama, Johnson's role called for intellect, strength, and compassion on the national and international stage, crafting and implementing policies and practices to address a range of problems. He helped frame the U.S.'s response to immigration, natural disasters, the Ebola disease, besides the threats from terrorism, to name just a few of the critical issues he faced during his tenure. He also helped coauthor the report that led to the repeal of "Don't Ask/Don't Tell" for gay individuals serving in the military. Johnson serves as a model leader and as an outstanding example of the influence a public servant can have in addressing our society's challenges and helping our citizens. For representing UDC's values so well, we are proud to honor his achievements.



Jeh Johnson is the former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. He served in that position from December 2013 to January 2017. Following that, Johnson has returned to private law practice at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, a law firm with which he has been affiliated since 1984 and where he became the firm's first African American partner in 1994. Johnson is also currently on the board of directors of PG&E Corporation, headquartered in San Francisco, and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Secretary Johnson's career has been a mixture of public service and private corporate law practice; he has served in three presidentially appointed Senate-confirmed positions. 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, cyber security, 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.

Prior to becoming Secretary of Homeland Security, Johnson was General Counsel of the Department of Defense (2009-2012). In that position, Johnson is credited with being the legal architect for the U.S. military's counterterrorism efforts in the Obama Administration. In 2010, Johnson also co-authored the report that paved the way for the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell by Congress later that year. In October 1998, Johnson was appointed by President Clinton to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, and served in that position until January 2001. Earlier in his career, Johnson was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (1989-1991).

Johnson has served on several private and public boards, including as a trustee of Adelphi University, and Lockheed Martin, as well as The New York Community Trust, and the Federal Bar Council, just to name a few.

In 2004 Secretary Johnson was elected a Fellow in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. He is the recipient of nine honorary degrees and named the 2018 recipient of the Ronald Reagan "Peace Through Strength" Award.

UDC VALUES

*Learning, discovery, and engagement * Academic excellence * High expectations * Student success
Innovation * Cross-cultural and international perspectives * Technological competencies
Collaboration among our internal and external partners * Public service*