

Gary T. Johnson President



Experience: Chicago History Museum (President, 2005–present); Jones Day (1994–2005); Mayer Brown (1977–94)

Education: Harvard University (JD 1977); Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar; MA Modern History 1974); Yale University (Phi Beta Kappa; AB summa cum laude, History and Political Science 1972)

Gary T. Johnson was named the eighth President of the Chicago History Museum in August 2005. Mr. Johnson is a lifelong Chicagoan and his passion for Chicago history is evident through his leadership at the Chicago History Museum focusing on exhibitions, programming, community outreach, and strengthening the institution’s financial capacity. Visiting Chicago’s grade schools with artifacts from the Museum’s collection is a personal commitment for Johnson. So far, he has visited 200 classrooms in neighborhoods throughout Chicago. “My desire for Chicagoans is to not only to access our collections and programs, but also to experience their own Chicago story.”

Mr. Johnson came to the Museum after 28 years as a lawyer and partner in the Chicago offices of two global law firms, Mayer Brown and Jones Day. He has a record of leadership in the civic arena, particularly in civil rights and legal services to the poor. From 2001–03, he was co-chair of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, and continues to serve on its executive committee.

Mr. Johnson is involved in the community and serves on boards such as the Radio Committee of WFMT, which oversees Chicago’s classical music station, and After School Matters, the after-school program created by Maggie Daley.