

Michelle M. Hurley has served as a family court judge in South Carolina since 2013. Family Court has jurisdiction over all cases concerning marriage, divorce, legal separation, custody, visitation rights, child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, child support, alimony, division of marital property, name changes, and juveniles alleged to have violated any state law or municipal ordinance.

Born in Columbia, South Carolina, she is the daughter of a school social worker and a third-generation funeral director who instilled in her the value of hard work, service to the community, and the importance of treating each person with dignity and respect. Judge Hurley is a graduate of Howard University, Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, and the University of South Carolina School of Law. In addition to her law degree, she is a licensed funeral director and embalmer.

Prior to taking the family court bench, Michelle served as a law clerk to a circuit court judge, attorney for the Department of Social Services (DSS), attorney and legal trainer for the Children's Law Center of the University of South Carolina School of Law, assistant director of the DSS Office of Individual & Provider Rights and Administrative Hearings, and municipal court judge for the City of Columbia. She regularly serves as a mentor to law students through USC's mentoring and Judicial Observation Experience (JOE) programs.

Judge Hurley's current and/or past memberships include, the South Carolina Bar Association, the Columbia Lawyers Association, the S.C. Black Lawyer's Association, the American Bar Association, and the South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Judge Hurley has served on numerous committees including, the Children's Law Committee, the S.C. Bar's Judicial Qualifications Committee, the Children's Justice Act Task Force, chair of the S.C. Family Court Bench Bar Committee, the School Resource Officer Work Group, the Pro Bono Committee, Advisory Group for Abused and Neglected Delinquent Youth, and the National Judicial Council for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Michelle is married to George Johnson, Esq., managing partner of Johnson, Toal and Battiste, PA, and they have two teenaged daughters.