



1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
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April 2, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and Black Women's Roundtable
Letter of Support for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Confirmation to the Supreme Court
of the United States**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and Black Women's Roundtable strongly urges the U. S. Senate's Committee on the Judiciary to support the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) is a 46-year old civil rights, civic engagement and social justice organization. The Black Women's Roundtable is the women and girls empowerment arm of the NCBCP. As an intergenerational membership of Black women leaders in social justice, civic, corporate, labor and women's organizations, the Black Women's Roundtable strongly supports Judge Jackson and believes that her judicial record, diverse legal experience, and lived experiences make her uniquely and exceptionally well-qualified to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court.

As a judge on both the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Judge Jackson's opinions have demonstrated her profound respect for the rule of law and the importance of protecting the civil rights afforded by the Constitution and the nation's civil rights laws. Her keen intellect and measured judicial temperament are demonstrated in her judicial opinions in which she meticulously weighs the facts, circumstances, and legal arguments in each case presented before her, and ensures that the law is applied equally to all.

Judge Jackson's breadth of legal experience gives her an understanding of the law and unique perspectives that would enrich deliberations and discussions among the Justices of the Supreme Court. Before serving on the federal bench, Judge Jackson served for six years, including one term as Vice Chair, on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent judicial government agency responsible for issuing and amending sentencing guidelines. Judge Jackson's experience also included work in both private practice and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. This wealth of legal perspectives enables her to bring depth and experience in both criminal and civil law to a role as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson also served as a law clerk for judges on the District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the First Circuit Court of Appeals, and for Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer.

Diversity on the U. S. Supreme Court--be it race, ethnicity, gender, or professional background—is valuable. Former Presidents recognized the importance of diversity and selected nominees to the Supreme Court who expanded the diversity and lived experiences reflective of America's diversity.¹ Judge Jackson's judicial experience would bring much-needed professional diversity to the Supreme Court as she would join Justice Sonia Sotomayor as the second sitting Justice to have served as a trial court judge, the first Justice since Justice Thurgood Marshall to bring significant criminal defense experience to the Court, and she would share Justice Breyer's same experience as having served as a member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

As a Black woman, Judge Jackson's lived experiences would enlighten and enrich the deliberations and discussions of cases among the Justices of the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson was born in 1970 in Washington, DC and raised in Miami, Florida by two public school educators who attended historically Black colleges and universities. Her father went on to become an attorney for the Miami-Dade County school board and her mother went on to become the principal of a magnet public high school in Miami. Judge Jackson attended public schools

¹ In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson successfully nominated Louis Brandeis as the first Jewish nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower successfully nominated William Brennan as the first Catholic nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1967, President Lydon Johnson successfully nominated Thurgood Marshall as the first African American nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan successfully nominated Sandra Day O'Connor as the first women to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush successfully nominated Clarence Thomas to succeed Justice Thurgood Marshall to preserve African American representation on the Court. In 2020 President Donald Trump successfully nominated Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court of the United States.

and graduated from Miami Palmetto High School, where she was elected class president three times, excelled in national speech and debate competitions, and noted in her high school yearbook, “I want to go into law and eventually have a judicial appointment.”² When she told her high school guidance counselor that she wanted to attend Harvard University, she was warned that she should not set her “sights so high”.³ She went on to graduate magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1992, and she graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1996. She also served as supervising editor on the Harvard Law Review.

Considering Judge Jackson’s demonstrated ability, eminent qualifications, and unimpeachable record of integrity and respect for the rule of law, the Black Women’s Roundtable urges you to work thoroughly and swiftly to consider and confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie L. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melanie L. Campbell
President & CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Convener, Black Women’s Roundtable

² Ella Ceron, “Supreme Court Nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson Predicted Her Career in Her High School Yearbook,” Bloomberg (February 25, 2022), available at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-25/supreme-court-nominee-ketanji-brown-jackson-wanted-appointment-since-high-school>

³ Id.