DAVID F. LEVI

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley Ranking Member U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of the President's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States. Since May of 2017 I have been the President of the American Law Institute (ALI), one of the leading law reform and law clarification bodies in the nation, and have served as a member of the Council of the ALI for over 15 years. Judge Jackson has also been a member of the Council of the ALI since 2016, and it is because of our joint service on this body that I have come to know her and can attest to her outstanding qualifications and character.

I served as a United States District Judge from 1990-2007 and then as Dean of the Duke Law School from 2007-2018. I am now the Director of the Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke Law School.

Judge Jackson has an extraordinary record of achievement. She excelled at Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She then clerked for three of the finest federal judges we have on the district court, the court of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme

Court. Most of us need mentors and role models to reach our full potential. Judge Jackson was so fortunate to have three such judges to support her on her path forward. Following her clerkships, Judge Jackson worked in a variety of settings, acquiring a broad range of experience and knowledge. She worked in top law firms, at the United States Sentencing Commission, and as a federal public defender. In 2013 she became a United States District Judge and served with distinction in that position for 8 years before her appointment in 2021 to the D.C. Circuit. Her record as a judge, particularly as a trial judge, shows her to be a careful, enormously capable judicial officer who understands the role of a judge and has the skills and personal qualities to excel in the position.

Over the past several years, I have written to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of a handful of judicial nominees. I only write when I know the nominee personally and hold the strong conviction that the nominee will be a superb judicial officer with the qualities I admire in a judge. I have written in support of Justice Neil Gorsuch and Justice Brett Kavanaugh when they were nominated by President Trump to the Supreme Court, for Judge Jennifer Thurston when she was nominated to the U.S. District Court in by President Biden to a position in the district in which I had served, and for Judge J. Michelle Childs when she was nominated by President Biden to the D.C. Circuit. As must be apparent, it is not important to me whether the judge is the nominee of a President of a particular party or has views on certain questions of law that agree with my own. What is important to me is that the nominee has the ability and temperament to excel as a judge and that the nominee shows an understanding that, in our system, a good judge must be neutral, nonpartisan, exercise self-restraint, model civility, and approach each case with an open mind and with the determination to reach as just, wise, and correct a result as possible.

Based on what I know of Judge Jackson, from her record on the bench and my own interactions with her at the American Law Institute, I believe she has been that kind of a judge and will be that kind of a Justice. I am therefore pleased to support her nomination.

