

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Letter of Support from Historically Black Colleges and University Law School Graduates for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Serve as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court**

As graduates of the six law schools at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) we write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination and confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The six HBCU law schools are: Howard University School of Law, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, North Carolina Central School of Law, Southern University Law Center, Florida A&M College of Law, and Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Texas Southern University). As graduates of these historic law schools, we are honored to show our support for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

HBCU law schools play a critical role in the legal profession and the administration of justice in the United States. Graduates of these law schools include Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the United States Supreme Court. As lawyers who are committed to seeing a legal profession and judiciary that reflect the diversity of the United States, we have been watching this nomination process closely. This is a historic moment for the United States, which is long overdue, to have a Black woman serve on the United States Supreme Court. We cannot underestimate the importance of having a Supreme Court that represents all the people of the United States.

Justice Thurgood Marshall famously said about his service on the Supreme Court, “We deal here with the rights of all of our children, whatever their race, to an equal start in life and to an equal opportunity to reach their full potential as citizens. Those children who have been denied that right in the past deserve better than to see fences thrown up to deny them that right in the future.” Knowing that the Supreme Court

will decide on the most important questions related to the rights of all the people of the United States, it is critical that those justices are people who all children of the United States can see themselves in and know that race and gender are not a barrier to serving on the highest court in our land.

We are extremely pleased that President Biden has nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, a lawyer and judge with outstanding credentials, high intellect and ethics, and a proven judicial track record of fair and impartial decision-making. Judge Jackson was confirmed to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in June 2021. From 2013 until 2021, she served as a United States District Court judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Having experience as both a trial judge and an appellate court judge gives Judge Jackson a depth of judicial experience and expertise that make her highly qualified for service on the Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson is an exceptional nominee. She has a wealth of professional experience beyond her extensive judicial experience. We are especially pleased that Judge Jackson has served as a public interest lawyer, in her role as an assistant federal public defender in the appeals division of the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the District of Columbia. Not only will she make history as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, but she will also be the first public defender to serve on the Court. Judge Jackson has a long and personal history working as a public defender. While in law school, Judge Jackson had a relative who was sentenced to life in prison for a nonviolent drug offense. She helped convince a law firm to take his case pro bono, eventually leading President Obama to commute his sentence. This deep commitment to fairness and justice makes Judge Jackson a uniquely qualified candidate for the Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson also has outstanding experience in the private sector, serving for three years as counsel at Morrison & Foerster LLP, with a practice that focused on criminal and civil appellate litigation in state and federal courts, including matters before the U.S. Supreme Court. This is the kind of diversity of work experience and legal expertise that will make Judge Jackson an outstanding Supreme Court justice.

For the above reasons we strongly support the nomination and confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. We look forward to a fair and respectful confirmation process. We strongly urge the United States Senate, with bipartisan support, to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

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