

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice of the
Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Senators Durbin, Grassley, Schumer, and McConnell:

As former federal prosecutors who served the state and the South Florida community that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson grew up in, we are writing to support her confirmation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Jackson possesses all of the traits necessary to serve on the Court: intellectual acumen, balanced and extensive professional experiences, and diverse life experiences. Indeed, she holds degrees with honors from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School and possesses a deep understanding of the criminal justice system from her time as a federal public defender. We know from our prior prosecutorial work that public defenders not only play a key role in advocating for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system, but also for entire communities and justice on a broad scale. Judge Jackson's keen understanding of the criminal justice system will bring a unique and necessary perspective to the Court.

In addition, Judge Jackson grew up in Miami, Florida and stands to bring a distinct perspective to the Court from her upbringing. Judge Jackson attended Miami Palmetto Senior High, where she was class president in 1988 and her love of the law first developed. In her high school yearbook, she wrote, "I want to go into law and eventually have a judicial appointment," an inspiration she drew from her father, Johnny Brown. Mr. Brown and Judge Jackson's mother, Ellery Brown, were dedicated public servants in their own right; both were educators at public schools in Miami. Mrs. Brown was a principal at New World School of the Arts, and Mr. Brown was a high school history teacher and later an attorney for the Miami-Dade School Board.

Through her parents, as attested to in her own life, Judge Jackson knows what it means to come from a family of service and sacrifice. Moreover, she knows what it means to be a part of the calling of justice, which we all hold so dear. Though prosecutors and public defenders stand on opposite sides of the courtroom, we all work towards the same goals: fairness, integrity, and evenhandedness. We know that the values instilled in Judge Jackson from her time as a federal public defender will serve her well on the Court.

For these reasons, among others, we commend President Biden for his nomination of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States and urge you to confirm Judge Jackson as Associate Supreme Court Justice. This opportunity marks an important and long overdue milestone for our beloved country.

Respectfully,

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