



# NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

80 M Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 | [www.nblsa.org](http://www.nblsa.org)

February 25, 2022

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**Tyler Phillips**  
DIRECTOR OF THE NEGOTIATIONS  
COMPETITION

## *Submitted Via Email*

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), a national organization founded in 1968 with the purpose of increasing the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community, strongly urges and calls for the swift, intentional, and deliberate confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States.

As the first Black woman Supreme Court nominee, Judge Jackson has made history. Like several Black women jurists before her—most notably Jane Bolin and Constance Baker Motley—she is a trailblazer who reflects the social, democratic, and community centered values of this nation. If confirmed, she would continue to be a champion and advocate for all while engaging in the necessary protection of civil and human rights. Throughout her career, especially as a former federal public defender and Vice Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, Judge Jackson has demonstrated care and compassion through her legal advocacy, an unwavering commitment to public service, and a prodigious legal aptitude.

Judge Jackson is qualified, brilliant, and accomplished beyond measure. Outside of her current tenure as an appellate judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, as a double Harvard University graduate, former editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and judicial clerk for the Honorable Justice Stephen Breyer, her career has been stamped by excellence and forged by family. She reflects America's progress, diversity, and people. For Black law students, and Black women law students in particular, her confirmation would signify glass ceilings breaking everywhere. It is inspirational to witness a Black woman with a background similar to many of our current students and alumna reach the pinnacle of legal scholarship and advocacy. She gives our Black attorneys, law students, and pre-law students hope for the future and themselves.



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It is time to confirm a Black woman to the Supreme Court. Throughout its entire 232 year existence and 115 justices, a Black woman has yet to sit on this nation's highest court. This is a significant moment in America's history that has taken far too long to reach. All judiciaries—the Supreme Court especially—must be reflective of its people and commitment to equity. The confirmation of Judge Jackson will be the first of many necessary steps to ensure that liberty, justice, and equality are achievable and accessible to all.

The National Black Law Students Association strongly supports the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States and calls for her confirmation to be completed expeditiously.

In NBLSA Service,

Simone Yhap  
55<sup>th</sup> National Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
National Black Law Students Association