

March 14, 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 Enthusiastic Support from Black Male Law Deans and Law Professors for the Senate's Confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Serve as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court**

We, as more than 100 Black male Law Deans and Law Professors of United States law schools, stand proudly to express our zealous support for the nomination and appointment of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States. We unanimously applaud and endorse, without reservation, President Joe Biden's nomination of Judge Jackson, who is truly one of our nation's brightest legal minds. From Judge Jackson's breathtaking credentials as an extraordinary jurist to her unimpeachable character and unwavering integrity, we believe that she is eminently qualified to fill this historic position.

**I. Judge Jackson is eminently qualified as a jurist with vast expertise.**

Judge Jackson brings nearly ten years of dedicated service as a federal judge at both the trial and appellate levels. Further, her work builds upon foundational experiences as an editor on the *Harvard Law Review*, a clerk to U.S. District Judge Patti Saris (appointed by President Bill Clinton), a clerk to U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Bruce Selya (appointed by President Ronald Reagan), and a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Moreover, Judge Jackson's record of leadership on the United States Sentencing Commission (appointed by President Barack Obama) has been publicly recognized, inspiring three prior confirmations with bipartisan support,

including her most recent confirmation in June 2021 for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Her jurisprudence is rich in depth, complexity, efficiency, and common sense. More than that, Judge Jackson’s jurisprudence is braided in fairness, compassion, and justice.

## **II. Judge Jackson is a consensus builder with a deep commitment to the rule of law.**

In addition to her depth of expertise on the bench, Judge Jackson’s early career experiences in private practice at leading law firms and as a former federal public defender representing criminal defendants sets her apart from the typical Supreme Court nominee. In each instance, Judge Jackson repeatedly exhibited exceptional legal acumen, consensus building leadership, and a deep commitment to the U.S. Constitution and rule of law. As retiring [Justice Stephen Breyer](#) summarized Judge Jackson’s approach to lawyering, Judge Jackson is “brilliant,” bringing a “mix of common sense” and “thoughtfulness.” As the daughter of public-school teachers, Judge Jackson’s demonstrated commitment to furthering the public interest resonates throughout each of her eclectic career experiences.

## **III. Judge Jackson brings a historically absent perspective to the Supreme Court.**

Perhaps most important, beyond Judge Jackson’s stellar credentials and intellectual prowess, she embodies the kind of Supreme Court Justice for whom America has been waiting. For far too long, the highest court in our land has not reflected the diversity of experiences, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds of our citizens. As President Joe Biden declared, “[I]t’s time that we have a Court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications.” [President Ronald Reagan](#) noted more than 40 years ago that we need “a better balance on the federal bench.”

We cannot wait any longer. The time to appoint and confirm a Black woman is now. While White men comprise roughly 30 percent of our nation’s population, they hold over 70 percent of federal judiciary positions. Further, while 108 White men have served as justices on the U.S. Supreme Court, there have only been two Black men and five women appointed to serve on the Court. Of those five women, only one has been a woman of color. Judge Jackson is uniquely positioned to bring a historically absent perspective to the challenging and complex questions that will be presented to the Supreme Court in the years to come.

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For these reasons, we, the undersigned, support President Biden’s nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is more than qualified for this important position, bringing a wealth of critical insights and a breadth of legal experiences that are sorely lacking among the current justices on the Court. Throughout her impressive career, from clerking on the Supreme Court to building consensus on the United States Sentencing

Commission, Judge Jackson has demonstrated both the commitment and integrity needed to uphold the charge of the Supreme Court to ensure “equal justice under law” for all Americans.

Amidst growing political polarization across the country, Judge Jackson will inspire a new generation of Americans to find middle ground and fight for liberty and equality for all, together. We urge the United States Senate to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson as the next Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States without delay.

Please note, we have signed this letter in our individual capacity. Institutional affiliation is noted below for identification purposes only.

Sincerely,

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