

# AFL-CIO

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

May 20, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman  
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to strongly support the confirmation of Candace Jackson-Akiwumi for the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi is eminently qualified for the position, and, if confirmed, will continue in her demonstrated commitment to equal justice under the law.

Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi will bring much needed experiential diversity to the federal bench, as she is one of very few nominees for the U.S. Court of Appeals with vast experience as a public defender. She served for 10 years in that role in Chicago, representing over 400 indigent clients at trial and on appeal. After serving in that role, Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi gained significant experience in complex civil litigation and criminal law through work as a litigator in the private sector while maintaining an active pro bono practice.

The federal bench is sorely lacking in demographic diversity. To date, only eight African-American women have served as federal appellate judges. If confirmed, Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi will be only the second African-American woman ever to serve on the Seventh Circuit, and significantly, to our dismay she will become the only person of color on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Circuit at this time.

Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi has a stellar record. The AFL-CIO urges her prompt confirmation.

Sincerely,



William Samuel  
Director, Government Affairs

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**American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations**

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