

March 23, 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

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
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, McConnell, Rubio, and Scott:

As professors who teach at law schools in Florida, the state in which Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson grew up, we are writing to urge her confirmation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

If confirmed, Justice Jackson would become just the sixth woman ever to serve on the Court, the fourth nonwhite justice, and the first African American woman. As we teach our students about the Constitution, the American legal system, and our nation's democratic ideals, it is vital that they see a Court that more fully reflects the diversity of the American people. Judge Jackson's confirmation would represent a milestone in our profession and our nation.

In 1994, the President nominated a distinguished federal circuit court judge, who had previously served on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, to become an associate justice of the Supreme Court. The Senate confirmed that nominee, Stephen Breyer, by a vote of 87 to 9. We believe Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Biden's nominee to succeed Justice Breyer, should receive the same broad and bipartisan support.

Like Justice Breyer, Judge Jackson excelled in rigorous academic environments, graduating magna cum laude from Harvard College and cum laude from Harvard Law School. Like Justice Breyer, she clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court. Like Justice Breyer, Judge Jackson also served as a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and both were judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals immediately before their nominations. Indeed, Judge Jackson has been confirmed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis three times – most recently last year for her current seat on the D.C. Circuit.

Judge Jackson also brings a unique blend of personal and professional experiences to her work as a judge. She worked both in private practice at some of the nation's largest law firms, representing corporations, and as a public defender, representing people who could not afford to hire an attorney. She also brings much-needed district court experience to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson wrote almost 600 opinions as a district court judge and would be only the second Justice currently on the Court with trial court experience. Furthermore, as Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Judge Jackson earned a well-deserved reputation for consensus building.

Judge Jackson would make an exceptional nominee regardless of where she was raised. But as law professors in Florida, we take special pride in the fact that Judge Jackson grew up in our state, one of the largest and most diverse in the country. Since her time as a student at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Judge Jackson has stood out as a leader among her peers. We are proud that Judge Jackson would be the first Floridian to join the United States Supreme Court.

We believe the confirmation process should not devolve into a polarized, partisan affair, as it regrettably has in the past. Instead, we urge the Senate to evaluate Judge Jackson on the basis of her impressive experience as a lawyer and judge, and confirm her to the U.S. Supreme Court by a wide margin, just as the Senate confirmed Justice Breyer 27 years ago.

Sincerely,

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