

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

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

March 16, 2022

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to express our strong support for President Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to succeed Justice Stephen G. Breyer as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Like Judge Jackson, we were honored to serve as law clerks to Justice Breyer. Although only a few of us overlapped with Judge Jackson during her term at the Supreme Court, we have had the opportunity and the privilege of sharing a clerk "family" with her, as well as of witnessing her stellar career over the past two decades. We have the utmost confidence in Judge Jackson's abilities, integrity, wisdom, temperament, and dedication to public service and the rule of law.

Judge Jackson's extraordinary credentials speak for themselves. With two degrees from Harvard University, three federal clerkships, three bipartisan confirmations to federal office, and nine years of judicial experience on two federal courts, Judge Jackson is eminently qualified to serve on the highest court in the land. She has worked in the trenches as both a public defender and a law firm associate. She has embraced and discharged a major leadership role at the United States Sentencing Commission. She has presided over the complex and fact-intensive proceedings of a trial court and written incisive and cogent decisions on both the district and appellate federal courts of the District of Columbia. The tremendous breadth of Judge Jackson's legal experience, and the insight and perspective it has given her into the workings of the law, will no doubt serve her, and the nation, well.

Like Justice Breyer, Judge Jackson is a patriot, an optimist, and a pragmatist about the law. Like him, she grew up in a family that revered public service and dedicated their professional lives to public education. Like Justice Breyer, that background and her subsequent career in public service have both reflected and deepened Judge Jackson's fervent belief in American values and the value of the American Constitution. She believes, like our justice, that the law is meant to work for real people, and her firsthand experience on the trial court will give her important insights about how Supreme Court decisions will be implemented by trial judges nationwide. She

will bring a similar pragmatism and sensitivity to ensuring that the Supreme Court’s decisions, while always firmly grounded in the rule of law, make sense in the context of the lived experiences of litigants.

During her White House remarks, Judge Jackson thanked Justice Breyer for exemplifying how “a Supreme Court justice can perform at the highest level of skill and integrity while also being guided by civility, grace, pragmatism, and generosity of spirit.” Judge Jackson might well have been describing herself. Like the justice for whom she, and we all, clerked, Judge Jackson approaches every problem with an open mind and every person with an open heart. Her collegiality was a hallmark of her leadership of the U.S. Sentencing Commission and already of her time on U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She is known as a consensus builder who listens as much as she speaks, and who builds bridges and relationships everywhere she goes.

In sum, Judge Jackson both embodies the very best qualities of Justice Breyer and has already made them her own. We are proud to support President Biden’s nomination of Judge Jackson. We hope the Senate will confirm her and thereby ensure that the Supreme Court, and the nation, benefit from her extraordinary talent and dedication.

Sincerely,

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