

April 21, 2021

**Via E-Mail**

Dick Durbin, Chairman  
Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in enthusiastic support of President Joe Biden's nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a court on which I served from 2005-2020.

Judge Jackson has demonstrated a record of excellence throughout her academic and professional career. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College, *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, and clerked at every level of the federal court system, for judges appointed by both Democratic and Republican presidents: Judge Patti B. Saris of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Judge Bruce M. Selya of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Jackson distinguished herself with an exemplary legal career in both public and private practice, as a federal public defender, private trial and appellate attorney, and as Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. This wide experience prepares her well for service on the D. C. Circuit.

Although she and I have sometimes differed on the best outcome of a case, I have always respected her careful approach and agreeable manner, two indispensable traits for success in a collegial body. This is a critical moment for the D. C. Circuit. With the untimely death of Judge Stephen Williams last summer, my retirement last fall, the appointment in January of Judge Garland to be Attorney General of the United States, and Judge David Tatel's recent announcement that he will take senior status, it is vital for the well-being of the court and the unique role it plays in the federal judiciary that its new members carry on the tradition of collegiality that has been the hard-won hallmark of the D. C. Circuit for the last thirty years. Judge Jackson will do that with distinction.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "B".

Judge Thomas B. Griffith (ret.)  
U. S. Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit (2005-2020)

cc: Phillip Brest, Esq.  
Ms. Emily Hampsten  
Ms. Jenna Valle-Riestra  
Michael Fragoso, Esq.  
Mr. Aaron Cummings