

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson, nominee for United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are former United States Attorneys from federal districts across the country and other former senior Department of Justice officials. We write to you and Members of the Committee in support of President Joe Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as a Circuit Court Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Each of us fully appreciates the significant authority of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and understands how critical it is to have appellate jurists with a steadfast commitment to independence, impartiality, and integrity. Judge Jackson possesses these values and is exceptionally qualified for the position.

Many of us and our colleagues have interacted with Judge Jackson and have found her to possess incredible intellect, excellent legal ability, and a commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards. Throughout her career, she has promoted compassion, dignity, and respect for all parties. As demonstrated by her eight years on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Judge Jackson is a fair and impartial jurist. She has authored more than 560 judicial decisions, adjudicating her fair share of complex legal questions in ways that have significantly advanced the legal profession and our understanding of principles enshrined in the Constitution. Her decisions are invariably well-reasoned and thoughtful, and she is singularly prepared to assume the role of appellate jurist.

Prior to her years on the bench, she held several positions at the highest level of our profession—federal public defender, private sector appellate and trial attorney, and Vice Chair of the

bipartisan United States Sentencing Commission—that make her an ideal candidate for the U.S. Court of Appeals. Her familiarity with public and private litigation on various legal issues makes her well-suited to deliberate on the spectrum of issues she will encounter as a U.S. Court of Appeals judge. Indeed, her broad and deep experience led the Senate to confirm her twice before.

Judge Jackson distinguished herself as a thoughtful legal mind and skilled practitioner early on, graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard College and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where she served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She went on to three federal court clerkships—at every level of the federal court system, for both Republican and Democratic-appointed judges—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 on the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson is eminently qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She has devoted her life to justice and possesses the brilliance, judgment, temperament, and experience required for an appellate jurist. We support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s nomination without reservation, and we urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination to the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jamie S. Gorelick**

Deputy Attorney General, 1994 – 1997

**David W. Ogden**

Deputy Attorney General, 2009 – 2010;  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil  
Division, 1999 – 2001

**Tony West**

Associate Attorney General, 2012 – 2014;  
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U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont, 2009 –  
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