

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM A. BURCK
ON THE NOMINATION OF
JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

I strongly support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court. I have known Judge Jackson since we clerked for different justices during the 1999-2000 Supreme Court term. Although some believe the Court is a highly politicized institution, my experience was very much to the contrary. I clerked for Justice Kennedy the same term Judge Jackson clerked for Justice Breyer, so one might expect that we would not see eye to eye on many issues. But the reality was that clerks from across the spectrum worked very closely together on every case before the Court and became fast and lifelong friends despite our honestly held disagreements, mirroring the personal and professional dynamics of the Justices themselves.

Even where we disagreed, we were all bound by a commitment to the rule of law and to the highest of professional standards. And we all understood the weightiness and importance of doing our part to protect the institution of the Court as the ultimate arbiter of the Constitution and a vital bulwark of our democracy. Judge Jackson epitomized this commitment.

Even as a young lawyer, Judge Jackson stood out to me for her keen intelligence, her vibrant personality and optimism, and her kindness. She was a person my colleagues and I could always depend upon for her discerning analysis of the

most difficult legal questions and her commitment to collaboration across Chambers, regardless of the perceived ideological bent of the individual Justices. She was herself far from an ideologue but rather a thoughtful and principled thinker whose values are rooted in the same ideals we all share as Americans. She continued to live up these ideals as a distinguished jurist and I am very confident will continue to do so as a Justice.

As a Republican, I hope Judge Jackson will garner substantial bipartisan support because she deserves to be judged on her personal merits which overwhelmingly weigh in favor of confirmation. No serious person can question her qualifications to the Court and to my mind her judicial philosophy is well within the mainstream.

Too often over the past several decades, Supreme Court nominations have descended into bitter partisan conflict and we lose sight of the most important qualities in a jurist. Judge Jackson presents an opportunity to refocus on what matters — the nominee's integrity, qualifications, and commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law. On all of those counts, Judge Jackson is as good as they come and our Nation will be better off with her on the Supreme Court.