

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Re: Law Students Support Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are law students from across the country writing in support of the nomination of United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court. As future attorneys, we know the importance of the rule of law and the central role that the Supreme Court plays in ensuring equal justice for all. We can think of no better candidate than Judge Jackson to join the Court and take on this leading role. We write, primarily, to express our hope that the Senate makes history by confirming Judge Jackson as the first Black woman justice on the Supreme Court. We also urge the Senate to continue to make history beyond Judge Jackson's confirmation by confirming federal judges who reflect this nation's rich gender, racial and legal professional diversity. Though we are one step closer to "when there are nine,"¹ there is much further to go.

First, let us start by saying that we are overjoyed at the prospect of seeing Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson appointed to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is an immensely qualified nominee and one of the brightest legal minds of her generation. A dedicated public servant, Judge Jackson has served this nation as a federal public defender, on the United States Sentencing Commission, and in the federal judiciary on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Notably, Judge Jackson has more judicial experience than four current Justices had at the time of their respective nominations combined. Judge Jackson's career history attests to her commitment to upholding this nation's promise of liberty and justice for all and we commend President Joseph Biden on choosing such an impressive and inspirational nominee.

We are also thrilled that Judge Jackson will make history as the first Black woman justice appointed to the Supreme Court. From the Lochner Era to the Warren Court, we as law students

¹ Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2015). For video of Justice Ginsburg's comment, click here: [When will there be enough women on the Supreme Court? Justice Ginsburg answers that question | PBS NewsHour](#) at 1:16-1:31.

know that the composition of the Court is of vital importance, and we deserve a Court that reflects the diversity of the American people. When judges and justices come from a diverse set of backgrounds, courts make better decisions that reflect a wider variety of perspectives. Justice that reflects only one perspective is inherently unequal and the American people deserve and demand equal justice under law.

As previously stated, though we are one step closer to Justice Ginsburg’s dream of “when there are nine,” there is much further to go. Judge Jackson’s nomination is but one, albeit massive, step towards building a federal judiciary that reflects the diversity of the American people. To place this nomination in its proper historical context, the Supreme Court met for the first time on February 2, 1790,² and not once in the 232 years since has a Black woman served on the Court. Of the 115 Justices who have served on the Supreme Court, 110 have been white men, 2 have been Black men, 4 have been white women, and 1 has been Latina.³ The racial and gender disparity is no less stark on the lower federal courts, where only 1.8% of all federal judges have been women.⁴ Even today, only 28% of federal judges are women, as compared to 51% of the population.⁵ When it comes to Black women, the figures are even more concerning: a Black woman judge has never served on the bench of the Third, Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits.⁶ Today, Black women make up only 3.4% of all active appeals court judges.⁷ The Senate can and should make history by confirming Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, but the Senate should also not forget that there is much progress left to make.

This is the year to make history by confirming Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. But 2023 is also the year to make history, as is 2024, and each year thereafter until our federal judiciary is reflective of the rich diversity of our country. At this stage in the journey, we celebrate Judge Jackson’s historic nomination and urge the Senate to grant her the prompt confirmation and respectful consideration that she deserves.

Sincerely yours,

Nabila Abdallah
Yasmine Ahkami
Caroline Alder
Lynn Arbid
Lily Baron
Mia Bodell

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² The Court as an Institution, Supreme Court of the United States, [The Court as an Institution - Supreme Court of the United States](#)

³ Justices 1789-Present, Supreme Court of the United States, [Justices 1789 to Present \(supremecourt.gov\)](#).

⁴ Zoe Tillman, Biden’s Supreme Court Promise Underscores a Reality: Black Women Rarely Get to the Federal Judiciary, BuzzFeed News (Jan. 28, 2022) [Black Women Have Been Radically Underrepresented In Federal Courts \(buzzfeednews.com\)](#)

⁵ Statista Research Department, Total Population in the United States by Gender from 2010 to 2025, Statista (Sept. 10 2021) [The Court as an Institution - Supreme Court of the United States](#)

⁶ This data derives from the Federal Judicial Center’s Biographic directory of Article III Federal Judges. [Biographical Directory of Article III Federal Judges, 1789-present | Federal Judicial Center \(fjc.gov\)](#)

⁷ Tillman, *supra* note 4.

Alexis Boyd	Maryland
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Miranda Carnes	Washington, D.C.
Lucille Dai-He	California
Arni Daroy	California
Renee Dash	Maryland
Chloe Dyer	Massachusetts
Katherine Fleming	Massachusetts
Veronica Flores	Massachusetts
Lauren Gammer	Maryland
Grace Gibson	Washington, D.C.
Keniece Gray	Washington, D.C.
Morgan Grizzle	Washington, D.C.
Maggie Hagen	Massachusetts
Alice Hu	Massachusetts
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Tori Shaw	Maryland
Marissa Shaw	Washington, D.C.
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