

March 14, 2022

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

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Enthusiastic Support from Black Male Law Deans and Law Professors for the Senate's Confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Serve as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court

We, as more than 100 Black male Law Deans and Law Professors of United States law schools, stand proudly to express our zealous support for the nomination and appointment of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States. We unanimously applaud and endorse, without reservation, President Joe Biden's nomination of Judge Jackson, who is truly one of our nation's brightest legal minds. From Judge Jackson's breathtaking credentials as an extraordinary jurist to her unimpeachable character and unwavering integrity, we believe that she is eminently qualified to fill this historic position.

I. Judge Jackson is eminently qualified as a jurist with vast expertise.

Judge Jackson brings nearly ten years of dedicated service as a federal judge at both the trial and appellate levels. Further, her work builds upon foundational experiences as an editor on the *Harvard Law Review*, a clerk to U.S. District Judge Patti Saris (appointed by President Bill Clinton), a clerk to U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Bruce Selya (appointed by President Ronald Reagan), and a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Moreover, Judge Jackson's record of leadership on the United States Sentencing Commission (appointed by President Barack Obama) has been publicly recognized, inspiring three prior confirmations with bipartisan support,

including her most recent confirmation in June 2021 for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Her jurisprudence is rich in depth, complexity, efficiency, and common sense. More than that, Judge Jackson’s jurisprudence is braided in fairness, compassion, and justice.

II. Judge Jackson is a consensus builder with a deep commitment to the rule of law.

In addition to her depth of expertise on the bench, Judge Jackson’s early career experiences in private practice at leading law firms and as a former federal public defender representing criminal defendants sets her apart from the typical Supreme Court nominee. In each instance, Judge Jackson repeatedly exhibited exceptional legal acumen, consensus building leadership, and a deep commitment to the U.S. Constitution and rule of law. As retiring [Justice Stephen Breyer](#) summarized Judge Jackson’s approach to lawyering, Judge Jackson is “brilliant,” bringing a “mix of common sense” and “thoughtfulness.” As the daughter of public-school teachers, Judge Jackson’s demonstrated commitment to furthering the public interest resonates throughout each of her eclectic career experiences.

III. Judge Jackson brings a historically absent perspective to the Supreme Court.

Perhaps most important, beyond Judge Jackson’s stellar credentials and intellectual prowess, she embodies the kind of Supreme Court Justice for whom America has been waiting. For far too long, the highest court in our land has not reflected the diversity of experiences, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds of our citizens. As President Joe Biden declared, “[I]t’s time that we have a Court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications.” [President Ronald Reagan](#) noted more than 40 years ago that we need “a better balance on the federal bench.”

We cannot wait any longer. The time to appoint and confirm a Black woman is now. While White men comprise roughly 30 percent of our nation’s population, they hold over 70 percent of federal judiciary positions. Further, while 108 White men have served as justices on the U.S. Supreme Court, there have only been two Black men and five women appointed to serve on the Court. Of those five women, only one has been a woman of color. Judge Jackson is uniquely positioned to bring a historically absent perspective to the challenging and complex questions that will be presented to the Supreme Court in the years to come.

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For these reasons, we, the undersigned, support President Biden’s nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is more than qualified for this important position, bringing a wealth of critical insights and a breadth of legal experiences that are sorely lacking among the current justices on the Court. Throughout her impressive career, from clerking on the Supreme Court to building consensus on the United States Sentencing

Commission, Judge Jackson has demonstrated both the commitment and integrity needed to uphold the charge of the Supreme Court to ensure “equal justice under law” for all Americans.

Amidst growing political polarization across the country, Judge Jackson will inspire a new generation of Americans to find middle ground and fight for liberty and equality for all, together. We urge the United States Senate to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson as the next Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States without delay.

Please note, we have signed this letter in our individual capacity. Institutional affiliation is noted below for identification purposes only.

Sincerely,

Etienne C. Toussaint
Assistant Professor of Law
University of South Carolina School of Law

Brandon Hasbrouck
Assistant Professor of Law
Washington and Lee University School of Law

Sheldon A. Evans
Associate Professor of Law
St. John’s University School of Law

Daniel S. Harawa
Associate Professor of Law and Director, Appellate Clinic
Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Stephen Wilks
Associate Professor of Law
University of Detroit Mercy

Raff Donelson
Associate Professor of Law
Penn State Dickinson Law

Gregory S. Parks
Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives
Wake Forest University School of Law

Tyson-Lord Gray
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law
University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law

Vincent Southerland
Assistant Professor of Clinical Law
New York University School of Law

Christopher Mathis
Visiting Assistant Professor Law
University of Iowa College of Law

Mitchell Crusto
Henry F. Bonura, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Law
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Bennett Capers
Professor of Law and Director of the Center on Race, Law, and Justice
Fordham University School of Law

Ndjuoh MehChu
Associate Professor of Law
Seton Hall Law School

Frank Rudy Cooper
William S. Boyd Professor of Law
Director, Program on Race, Gender & Policing
William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV

Darrell D. Jackson
Professor of Law and Director of Prosecution Assistance Program
University of Wyoming College of Law

Jonathan Glater
Professor of Law
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Dean
Professor of Law
Brooklyn Law School

Jeffrey Omari
Assistant Professor of Law
Northern Illinois University College of Law

H. Timothy Lovelace, Jr.
Professor of Law and History, John Hope Franklin Research Scholar
Duke University School of Law

Cedric Merlin Powell
Wyatt Tarrant & Combs Professor of Law
University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law

Darin Johnson
Associate Professor of Law
Howard University School of Law

Jesse McCoy
Clinical Professor of Law
Duke University School of Law

Jeremiah Chin
Assistant Professor of Law
St. Thomas University College of Law

Del Wright, Jr.
Professor of Law
UMKC School of Law

Marcus Gadson
Assistant Professor of Law
Campbell University School of Law

Areto Imoukhuede
Professor of Law
Florida A & M University College of Law

Michael Pinard
Francis & Harriet Iglehart Professor of Law
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Kenneth Williams
Professor of Law
South Texas College of Law Houston

Fareed Nassor Hayat
Associate Professor of Law and Interim Senior Associate Academic Dean
City University New York School of Law

Atiba Ellis
Professor of Law
Marquette University Law School

S. David Mitchell
Ruth L. Huston Professor of Law
Co-Director of Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship and Justice
University of Missouri School of Law

Jon Dubin
Board of Governors Distinguished Public Service Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Clinical Education & Access to Justice/Opportunity Programs
Rutgers Law School

Daniel Ellman
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
Wayne State University Law School

Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr.
Jesse Climenko Clinical Professor of Law
Harvard Law School

Maurice R. Dyson
Professor of Law
Suffolk University Law School

Richard A. Boswell
Professor of Law
University of California, Hastings

Bryan Adamson
David L. Brennan Chaired Professor of Law and Associate Dean
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Wilfred U. Codrington III
Assistant Professor of Law
Brooklyn Law School

Richard Middleton IV
Adjunct Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Kevin Brown
Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law
Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Michael Higginbotham
Laurence M. Katz Professor of Law
University of Baltimore

Nathaniel Mensah
Visiting Professor of Law
Georgetown Law School

Charles C. Jalloh
Professor of Law
Florida International University College of Law

Todd Clark
Professor of Law
St. Thomas University School of Law

Richard Winchester
Associate Professor of Law
Seton Hall University School of Law

Mekonnen Ayano
Associate Professor of Law
University at Buffalo School of Law

Charlton Copeland
Professor of Law and Dean's Distinguished Scholar
Associate Dean for Intellectual Life
University of Miami School of Law

Michael J. States
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
The University of Wisconsin Law School

Evan Darryl Walton
Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor
Boston University School of Law

Samuel Murumba
Professor of Law
Brooklyn Law School

Sheldon Bernard Lyke
Associate Professor of Law
University of Baltimore School of Law

Mario Barnes
Professor of Law
University of California, Irvine School of Law

Horace E. Anderson, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law
Pace University, Elisabeth Haub School of Law

Jace C. Gatewood
Dean and Chief Executive Officer
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Daniel Fryer
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Michigan Law School

John Pierre
Chancellor and Vanue B. Lacour Endowed Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

David Brennen
Frost, Brown & Todd Professor of Law and Former Dean
University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law

David A. Green
Professor of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Reginald Mombrun
Professor of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Irving L. Joyner
Charles Hamilton Houston Endowed Chair, Professor of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Don Corbett
Associate Professor of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Garry Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
University of Minnesota Law School

Paul Butler
Albert Brick Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center

Russel Robinson
Walter Perry Johnson Professor of Law
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

David D. Troutt
Distinguished Professor of Law
Director, Center on Law, Inequality and Metropolitan Equity
Rutgers Law School-Newark

Roger A. Fairfax, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law
American University Washington College of Law

Matthew H. Charity
Professor of Law
Western New England University School of Law

Masai McDougall
Assistant Professor of Law
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law

Fred Smith Jr.
Professor of Law
Emory University School of Law

Matthew Patrick Shaw
Assistant Professor of Law
Vanderbilt Law School

Chris Brummer
Agnes N. Williams Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center

Kenneth L. Lawson
Co-Director, Hawaii Innocence Project
University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law

Timothy Davis
Professor of Law
Wake Forest University School of Law

Girardeau A. Spann
James and Catherine Denny Professor of Law
Georgetown University Law Center

John Brittain
Olie W. Rauh Professor of Law
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law

Kendall Thomas
Nash Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

William Covington
Associate Teaching Professor
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
University of Washington School of Law

Omari Scott Simmons
Howard L. Oleck Professor of Business Law
Wake Forest University School of Law

Jerome Hughes
Assistant Professor of Law
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law

Frank Deale
Professor of Law
City University New York School of Law

Devon Carbado
Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law
UCLA School of Law

Abdullahi An-Naim
Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law
Emory University School of Law

Michael Green
Professor of Law and Director, Workplace Law Program
Texas A&M School of Law

Lonnie T. Brown, Jr.
A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism
Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor
University of Georgia School of Law

T. Anansi Wilson
Associate Professor of Law
Director of Center for the Study of Black Life and the Law
Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Thomas Williams
Clinical Professor of Law
Duke University School of Law

Aderson B. Francois
Anne Fleming Research Professor; Professor of Law
Director, Institute for Public Representation Civil Rights Law Clinic
Georgetown University Law Center

W. Keith Robinson
Professor of Law
Wake Forest University School of Law

N. Jeremi Duru
Professor of Law
American University Washington College of Law

Trevor G. Gardner
Treiman Professor of Law
Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Jonathan Seymour
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law
Duke University School of Law

Chaz Arnett
Associate Professor of Law
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Russell Jones
Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Ralph Richard Banks
Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law
Stanford Law School

Anthony Paul Farley
James Campbell Matthews Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence
Albany Law School

Leland Ware
Professor of Law
University of Delaware

Blake D. Morant
Robert Kramer Research Professor of Law
The George Washington University Law School

Makau W. Mutua
SUNY Distinguished Professor & Margaret W. Wong Professor
University at Buffalo School of Law, The State University of New York

Henry L. Chambers, Jr.
Austin E. Owen Research Scholar & Professor of Law
University of Richmond School of Law

Bret Asbury
Professor of Law
Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Eric Miller
Professor of Law
Loyola Law School, LMU Los Angeles

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law
Syracuse University College of Law

Kenya J. H. Smith
Judge Freddie Pitcher, Jr. Endowed Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Ernest L. Johnson, Sr.
Visiting Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Michael L. Harris
Visiting Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Rahim Smith
Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Paul Race
Associate Professor of Law
Southern University Law Center

Kenneth W. Gaines
Professor of Law, Emeritus
University of South Carolina School of Law

Donald North
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Southern University Law Center

Justin Hansford
Professor of Law
Howard University School of Law

Ansel K. Brown
Assistant Professor of Legal Writing
North Carolina Central University School of Law