

March 22, 2022

Senator Richard Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Nomination of Hon. Ketanji Brown Jackson as Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court*

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The signatories of this letter are lawyers and legal academics who work and teach at the four law schools in the State of Missouri: University of Missouri School of Law, University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law, St. Louis University School of Law, and Washington University School of Law. We write to endorse – enthusiastically – the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson’s record of intellectual accomplishment, practical experience, and public service is among the most distinguished of any Supreme Court nominee in recent memory.

She graduated with honors from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and went on to clerk for three federal judges, including Justice Stephen Breyer, whose seat she is slated to assume. She has practiced law in multiple distinguished private firms and as a Federal Defender. Since 2013, she has been a federal judge, serving eight years as a United States District Judge before being elevated in 2021 to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

We are particularly pleased by Judge Jackson’s extensive experience as a practicing lawyer and as a trial judge on the District Court bench. Intellectual acuity is, of course, a prerequisite for service on the nation’s highest court, but exposure to the real world of law practice and trial court litigation provides an essential pragmatic leavening to judicial decision-making. In recent decades, far too few Supreme Court justices have had substantial practice and trial court experience. On the current court, only Justice Sotomayor boasts a similar record. Among recent Justices, those with significant prior practice and trial level judicial experience – such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sandra Day O’Connor, David Souter, and Anthony Kennedy – consistently demonstrated the value of personal familiarity with the realities of the legal system at work.

We also note Judge Jackson’s years of work in the field of criminal sentencing. Before becoming a judge, she served as assistant special counsel to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and later as its Vice-Chair. In these positions, she gained deep familiarity with the sentencing policy process and helped the Commission navigate some of the most difficult issues faced by that body, including the aftermath of the *Booker* decision rendering the Sentencing Guidelines

advisory, drug sentencing, and more. This experience will be particularly valuable to the Supreme Court where criminal justice issues are a regular staple.

Judge Jackson's work as a district judge has been widely praised, particularly for her thoughtful and "even-handed" approach to difficult and contentious issues. Likewise, her nomination has been widely endorsed, including by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, former Attorneys General of both parties from over 40 states and territories, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, and the President of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Finally, the fact that Judge Jackson would be the first African American woman to serve on the Court represents both a milestone in America's progress toward racial justice and an immense boon to the Court itself in the addition of a perspective that only someone of Judge Jackson's background can provide.

Accordingly, the undersigned wholeheartedly and unreservedly endorse the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Alexander
Teaching Professor of Law
Director of Legal Research & Writing
University of Missouri School of Law

Jon M. Baris
Dean of Students
Saint Louis University School of Law

Petina Benigno
Assistant Director of Academic Support and Bar
Exam Preparation
Saint Louis University School of Law

Mary Beck BSN MSN RN JD
Professor Emerita of Clinical Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Frank O. Bowman, III
Univ of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Prof
Floyd R. Gibson Missouri Endowed Prof of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Miriam A. Cherry
Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Research and Engagement
Co-Director, Wefel Center for Employment Law
Saint Louis University

Julie M. Cheslik
Associate Professor
Univ. of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

Jennifer Riedy Clark
Director of Public Interest Programs &
Instructor
University of Missouri School of Law

Melody Richardson Daily
Clinical Professor and Director of Legal
Research and Writing Emerita
University of Missouri School of Law

Belinda J. Dantley
Assistant Dean for Diversity Equity & Inclusion
Professor of Child Advocacy
Saint Louis University School of Law

Kenneth Dean
Dean Emeritus
University of Missouri School of Law

Angela Drake
Director, Veterans Clinic
University of Missouri School of Law

Randy Diamond
Legal Research Professor
University of Missouri School of Law

Monica E. Eppinger
Associate Professor of Law and of
Anthropology
Co-Director, Center for International and
Comparative Law
Saint Louis University

David A. Fischer
James Lewis Parks and Isidor Loeb Professor
Emeritus of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

R. Wilson Freyeremuth
John D. Lawson Professor
Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor
University of Missouri School of Law

Morgan L.W. Hazelton
Associate Professor of Political Science and
Law (by courtesy)
Saint Louis University

Robert H. Jerry, II
Visiting Adjunct Professor
UMKC School of Law
Floyd R. Gibson Missouri Endowed Professor-
Emeritus
University of Missouri School of Law

William P. Johnson
Dean and Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Sam Jordan
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Elizabeth Katz
Associate Professor of Law
Washington University in St. Louis

Resa J. Kerns
Associate Teaching Professor
University of Missouri School of Law

Mary Kay Kisthardt
Tiera M. Farrow Faculty Scholar and Emerita
Professor of Law
Univ. of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

Paul Ladehoff
Director, LL.M. Programs
University of Missouri School of Law

John Lande
Isidor Loeb Professor Emeritus
Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Dispute
Resolution
University of Missouri School of Law

Yvette Joy Liebesman
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

James H. Levin
Associate Director, Center for the Study of
Dispute Resolution
University of Missouri School of Law

Nancy Levit
Curators' Distinguished Professor &
Edward D. Ellison Professor of Law
Univ. of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

Lyrissa Lidsky
C.A. Leedy Professor of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Erika Lietzan
William H. Pittman Professor of Law &
Timothy J. Heinsz Professor of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Paul Litton
R.B. Price Professor of Law
Associate Dean
University of Missouri School of Law

Ann Marie Marciarille
Professor of Law
Univ. of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

Gregory P. Magarian
Thomas and Karole Green Professor of Law
Washington University School of Law

Antonia A.B. Miceli, J.D., M.P.H., C.P.H.
Professor and Director of Academic Support and
Bar Exam Preparation
Saint Louis University School of Law

Michael A. Middleton, J.D.
Deputy Chancellor Emeritus and
Professor Emeritus of Law
University of Missouri

Professor Richard T. Middleton, IV
Adjunct Professor of Law
St. Louis University School of Law
Professor of Political Science
University of Missouri - St. Louis

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

Carol A. Needham
Emanuel Myers Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Kimberly Norwood
Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law
Washington University School of Law

Rigel C. Oliveri
Isabelle Wade and Paul C. Lyda Professor of
Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Henry Ordower
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Clark M. Peters, PhD MSW JD
Associate Professor
School of Social Work / School of Law
Truman School of Government and Public
Affairs
University of Missouri

Philip G. Peters
Ruth L. Hulston Professor Emeritus of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Karen Petroski
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Richard C. Reuben
James Lewis Parks Professor of Law and
Journalism
University of Missouri School of Law

Rachel E. Sachs
Treiman Professor of Law
Washington University School of Law

Leila Nadya Sadat
James Carr Professor of International Criminal
Law
Washington University School of Law

Karen S. Sanner, J.D.
Professor of Legal Writing
Saint Louis University School of Law

Kim Thuy Seelinger
Visiting Professor, School of Law
Director, Center for Human Rights, Gender and
Migration
Washington University, St. Louis

Cindy Shearrer
Associate Law Librarian
University of Missouri School of Law

Peggie R. Smith
Charles Nagel Professor of Employment &
Labor Law
Washington University School of Law

Wanda M. Temm
Eleanore C. Blue Lawyering Skills Professor
UMKC School of Law

Mikah K. Thompson
Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Associate Professor
Univ of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Karen Tokarz
Professor of Law
Washington University School of Law

*Institutional affiliations provided for
identification purposes only*

Ben Trachtenberg
Isidor Loeb Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
University of Missouri School of Law

David W. Tushaus
Supervising Attorney, Innocence Clinic,
University of Missouri - Kansas City

Rodney J. Uphoff
Elwood Thomas Missouri Endowed
Professor Emeritus of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Sidney D. Watson
Jane and Bruce Robert Professor of Law
Director, Center for Health Law Studies
Saint Louis University School of Law

Christina E. Wells
Enoch H. Crowder Professor of Law
University of Missouri School of Law

Laura B. Wilcoxon, JD, MLS, MEd
Reference & Student Services Librarian
University of Missouri School of Law

Doug Williams
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law

Barbara E. Wilson
Emerita Clinical Professor of Law
Univ of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Michael A. Wolff
Professor Emeritus & Dean Emeritus
Saint Louis University School of Law

Del Wright Jr.
Professor of Law
Univ of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Ruqaiijah Yearby, JD, MPH
Professor of Law
Saint Louis University School of Law