



Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community.

We are impressed by President Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to become the 116th Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Jackson possesses a unique background for the court having been born in Washington D.C. and raised in Miami, Florida. She has cultivated sterling credentials, having graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Harvard University and *Cum Laude* from Harvard Law. She was appointed to the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia by President Obama in 2012 and appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by President Biden in 2021.

If confirmed, Judge Jackson would be the first Justice in the court's history who previously served as a public defendant. We appreciate her expertise and depth of knowledge in various fields, including many that are important to our community. She has ruled on numerous cases, including several important civil rights cases and has demonstrated a clear understanding of the law, precedent, and the context of our lives and our nation. She has garnered widespread praise from liberals and conservatives alike.

As I stated in response to the announcement of Judge Brown Jackson's nomination, "Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is an excellent nominee for the Supreme Court, with unimpeachable credentials. Rather than ask why Judge Jackson has been nominated above other candidates, we should be asking why they have been passed over previously for consideration. When President Biden was campaigning, he promised to nominate a Black woman so that the court would look more like America. Swift confirmation of Judge Jackson will move us in that direction."

It is unconscionable that in our nation's 244 year history, and 233 year history of the court, we have not yet appointed a black woman to serve as a justice. This is our opportunity to remedy that failing. Judge Jackson's appointment will do little to change the ideological balance of the court, but will bring significant change to how the court represents us as an American people.

We urge you to swiftly approve the nomination of Judge Jackson, just as she has been confirmed by the Senate three times previously, and look forward to having a Supreme Court that is more representative of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Inoue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Inoue".

David Inoue
Executive Director