

MSNBC's *The ReidOut*

03/30/21

7:33:22 p.m.

1 minute and 2 seconds

JOE BIDEN [on 02/25/20]: I'm looking forward to making sure there's a black woman on the Supreme Court to make sure we, in fact, get every representation. Not a joke.

JOY REID: That was candidate Joe Biden promising to nominate an African- American woman to the highest court in the land. This morning, he took a major step toward keeping that promise. He nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the influential U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a seat left vacant by Attorney General Merrick Garland. The move cements Jackson's front-runner status for the Supreme Court if a vacancy opens up. Judge Jackson was one of 11 nominations sent to the Senate this morning by President Biden. The new judges, if confirmed, include three African-American women for appeals court vacancies, the first Muslim federal judge, and the first Asian American woman to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Biden's picks stand in stark contrast to the slew of barely qualified white male ideologue judges that Donald Trump and his Senate henchman Mitch McConnell rammed through at an astonishing rate.

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7:37:44 p.m.

3 minutes and 6 seconds

REID: Well, let's talk a little bit about some of these nominees. I happen to know Ketanji Brown Jackson. I knew her as Ketanji Brown when we were in college, so I think she's wonderful. And she actually made it to the top three. It was her, Merrick Garland and Sri Srinivasan. They were the, like, top three choices for the SCOTUS, and President Obama chose Garland. So, there are a lot of people who were disappointed, I will say I was one of them. And then all of this drama played out with Merrick Garland being just completely sort of humiliated by Mitch McConnell, and just not even — they wouldn't even meet with him, wouldn't talk with him. Well, now look at karma. He is now attorney general, and that opens the door for Ketanji Brown Jackson. She is the person most thought of as being next up for a SCOTUS seat. Tell us about her.

NEAL KATYAL: Yes, so, I think, look, any of those three would have been a great jurists and Ketanji would be a great Supreme Court justice. She is brilliant. She's got a deep soul. She's a great writer. She's collegial. She's not a bomb thrower. She's going to fit in incredibly well on this new court, the D.C. Circuit, our nation's second highest court. I also think there are other people, too, in that league and so I don't think we should write them off —

REID: Yep.

KATYAL: — like Leandra Kruger, who's a justice on the California Supreme Court, who's about the best lawyer I have ever worked with. And, you know, so there's other people too, but I

think what the president did here is say, here's a great person for our nation's second highest court. She should go up today. And then, along with this other just rich, diverse, competent slate of nominees, I mean, this is just a really incredible day.

REID: I'm just looking at some of these folks and the idea of somebody like her, plus Sonia Sotomayor, that just instantly changes the way the court would look, right, two women of color on it. There are a lot of other great people. There are people. There is, as you said, Tiffany Cunningham, who is a nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals. There's Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Like, you could just go down. There are lots of these judges who are of different, you know, sort of backgrounds and religions. In your view, what difference does that make to jurisprudence, if you have more diversity, in your view?

KATYAL: Well, I don't know that the — that just race alone does, but life experience does and, here, you have got, I think, people who've lived all different walks of life. A Muslim American, our very first Muslim American judge, should he be confirmed, is going to probably have a different set of experiences than, you know, a lot of the Trump nominees, to put it mildly.

REID: Heh!

REID: You've got incredible — you know, the Seventh Circuit judge, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, is, you know, a federal public defender, spent the last ten years doing that. That's rare voice. You know, I have the privilege of arguing on the circuit courts all the time. Very few judges have that kind of experience.

REID: Yeah.

KATYAL: And so, by doing that you really bolster the tapestry of what jurisprudence is all about.

REID: Yeah, absolutely and breaking the sort of Heritage Foundation like every one is cut from that same cloth and you just get them rolled out over and over. You're right. You get sort of one view on the court. It could be a great thing happening Joe Biden's doing.

MSNBC's *Deadline: White House*

06/09/21

4:54:11 p.m.

12 seconds

KATYAL: And that's why I like this Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson that is going to be confirmed, it looks like in the next few days for the Court of Appeals, is 100 percent a step in the right direction and she's amazing.

MSNBC's *Deadline: White House*

06/15/21

4:39:52 p.m.

1 minute

NICOLLE WALLACE: The Biden administration is moving forward with urgency and purpose in its effort to reshape the federal judiciary. Yesterday, the Senate voted 53 to 44 to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, an impressive rising star to serve on what is regarded as the second highest court in the land. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit is a seat recently vacated by Merrick Garland, who is, of course, busy now serving as our country's Attorney General. But he's also a living reminder of a hard truth that confirming justices has become messy political work. Remember, Mitch McConnell blocked Garland from taking Justice Scalia's seat nine months before the 2016 election, and four years later, he turned around and confirmed Justice Amy Coney Barrett, eight days before the 2020 election. It is something to think about given the rumors that Justice Breyer could soon step down. Ketanji Brown Jackson was actually a clerk of his and she is seen as the odds-on favorite to replace him on the Supreme Court. But yet again, it seems Mitch McConnell is on a mission to obstruct.

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4:41:18 p.m.

45 seconds

KATYAL: Well, I'm a former law clerk to Justice Breyer, like Ketanji Jackson, and so I'm not going to opine on that question, but I do think that President Biden deserves a lot of credit for nominating Ketanji Jackson to our nation's second highest court, and also something about diversity. I mean, at this point, President Biden has confirmed more African-American judges to the court of appeals in his four months than Donald Trump did in four years. That is a number, Nicolle, have won. That's right. Donald Trump didn't have a single African-American Court of Appeals judge, and you'd have to go back to President Nixon to find a president who did that. And, of course, back then the numbers of black law school graduates as far fewer.

(...)

4:42:05 p.m.

56 seconds

WALLACE: Let's just play the hypothetical scenario, where justice Breyer stands down, and she becomes talked about as a front-runner. I just wanted to point this out. Her confirmation was expected, but she received support Monday from Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski, Susan Collins and Lindsey Graham, all who voted to advance her nomination in a procedural vote last week. Does that play into how a White House trying to game out a Supreme Court fight?

KATYAL: I mean, obviously, you know, any of these folks could switch their votes and say, well, it's different for the Court of Appeals than it is for the Supreme Court. But if the President does nominate Judge Jackson, then he's nominating someone who is impeccably qualified, who's just so together as a jurist, as a person, yes, that even Lindsey Graham voted for her for the Court of Appeals. So, that really does, I think, say something.

MSNBC's *Deadline: White House*

12/22/21

5:41:03 p.m.

21 seconds

KATYAL: Now, the question is, can he make up on the influential superstar ones? He's done so with at least one judge, Ketanji Jackson, appointed to our nation's second highest court. She's already serving, but there's been another vacancy on that court for now almost a year, and the President hasn't filled that. So, I do think that there is some room — there is some room to grow here and to move with more speed.

MSNBC's *The ReidOut*

12/24/21

7:25:00 p.m.

59 seconds

JOY REID: We have one body in this country that is supposed to be able to discern right from wrong and set things right when things are wrong and that is the United States Supreme Court. To me, they have failed utterly their job as this — as delineated by the Constitution to protect the most vulnerable. They only want to protect the rich, the powerful, the corporations, the religious extremists. They have allowed the Texas bounty hunter law to stand. They have allowed voter — the discrimination against voters to stand. Thank God, thank God for Sonia Sotomayor, who is the conscience of that body, but they have failed us. They have three Trumpers on there, and they are doing exactly what Donald Trump wants. And goodbye to Roe v. Wade, you all. Vote based on the court. The court is important and I hope Ketanji Brown will eventually be on there, set things right, and stare weird at Clarence Thomas if he's still on there with her. But God help us if that court is supposed to be our salvation, because they ain't doing it.