

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings; History on the Horizon]

AMY ROBACH: History on the horizon.

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: Thank you for this historic chance to join the highest court.

ROBACH: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson preparing for a marathon day of questions. How Republicans are planning to attack her record.

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7:12:51 a.m.

3 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Now; Historic Confirmation Hearings Underway; Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Makes Opening Statement]

T.J. HOLMES: We now turn to history. Senate confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first black woman to be nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court. Those hearings now underway and Judge Jackson will be facing the first day of questioning after delivering a very personal opening statement yesterday. Our congressional correspondent Rachel Scott is in that hearing room. Rachel, good morning to you.

RACHEL SCOTT: T.J., good morning. And both Democrats and Republicans acknowledging the history made in this room. And while Judge Jackson is certainly set to face some very tough questions ahead, she opened her confirmation hearings promising to defend the Constitution. History made on Capitol Hill.

SENATOR DICK DURBIN (D-IL): So help you God.

JACKSON: I do.

SCOTT: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as the first Black woman nominated to serve on the Supreme Court. The weight of the moment sinking in.

JACKSON: Thank you for this historic chance to join the highest court, to work with brilliant colleagues, to inspire future generations and to ensure liberty and justice for all.

SCOTT: Jackson introducing herself to the country as the daughter of schoolteachers. She credits her father, who later became an attorney for shaping her passion for law.

JACKSON: My father in particular bears responsibility for my interest in the law. My very earliest memories are of watching my father study. He had his stack of law books on the kitchen table while I sat across from him with my stack of coloring books.

SCOTT: Seated there behind Judge Jackson, her two daughters and her husband Patrick Jackson, a cancer surgeon overwhelmed with emotion.

JACKSON: I have no doubt that without him by my side from the very beginning of this incredible professional journey, none of this would have been possible.

SCOTT: If confirmed, she would be the second working mother serving on the court.

JACKSON: Girls, I know it has not been easy as I've tried to navigate the challenges of juggling my career and motherhood and I fully admit that I did not always get the balance right. But I hope that you've seen that with hard work, determination, and love, it can be done.

SCOTT: This is her fourth confirmation hearing. She's been a judge for nearly a decade, promising to serve without fear or favor.

JACKSON: I have dedicated my career to ensuring that the words engraved on the front of the Supreme Court building "Equal Justice Under Law" are a reality and not just an ideal.

SCOTT: And as she prepares for tough questions in the coming days, a group of black law students from Louisiana came to the nation's capital to show their support and witness history.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL STUDENT #1: She is showing us what equal justice looks like.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL STUDENT #2: I feel like eventually she's going to have my back so I need to have hers.

SCOTT: Alright, so today senators get about 30 minutes to question Judge Jackson. She could be in this hot seat behind me for over 11 hours. Republicans already previewing their attacks calling her soft on crime but Democrats do not need any Republican support to confirm Judge Jackson to the bench, T.J.

HOLMES: Yeah, We see heat radiating off that seat already. Rachel Scott, we appreciate you as always. And, guys, no matter how it works out, this is something we have never seen in the history of the country. A black woman is at SCOTUS confirmation hearings in the senate. So, something to see.

ROBACH: Yep and we will be watching.

HOLMES: Yep.