

CBS Mornings

03/22/22

7:01:16 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: History at the U.S. Senate as confirmation hearings began on Judge Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court.

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: I will work to support and defend the Constitution.

(...)

7:07:59 a.m.

2 minutes and 43 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Supreme Court Confirmation Hearing; Ketanji Brown Jackson Answering Lawmaker Questions This Morning]

GAYLE KING: It's day two of questioning of confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson. In her opening statement yesterday, the federal appeals court judge vowed to defend the Constitution and remain independent. Now, this morning she will face intense questioning from senators about her record and her approach to judging. Nikole Killion is in the committee hearing room. Nikole, how tough do you think it could get for the judge today?

NIKOLE KILLION: Well, Gayle, both parties say they want this to be respectful. But Republicans have made clear they plan to drill down on her record and think she's too soft on crime. Jackson's team says she's ready. I also spoke to her parents who told me they thought yesterday went well and was one of the most proudest moments of their lives.

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

KILLION: The nation's first female black Supreme Court nominee opened her confirmation hearing, acknowledging her family —

JACKSON: My parents taught me that unlike the many barriers that they had had to face growing up, my path was clearer.

KILLION: — and confirming her commitment to the law.

JACKSON: I have been a judge for nearly a decade now, and I take that responsibility and my duty to be independent very seriously. I decide cases from a neutral posture.

KILLION: Previewing what's to come, Democrats touted Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's political background.

SENATOR DICK DURBIN (D-IL): You've been faithful to the law, not to any person or political cause.

KILLION: Republicans pressed for a more thorough review and plan to inquire about her views from court packing to crime.

SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN (R-TN): What's your hidden agenda?

KILLION: Missouri's Josh Hawley ticked through several of Jackson's sentencing decisions, claiming she was too lenient on sex offenders, a claim that has been refuted by the White House and Democratic lawmakers —

SENATOR JOSH HAWLEY (R-MO): I'm not interested in trapping Judge Jackson. I'm not interested in trying to play gotcha. I'm interested in her answers.

KILLION: — answers the White House says the judge will provide. [TO JONES] How do you expect Judge Jackson to respond to some of these arguments and accusations that she's soft on crime?

FORMER SENATOR DOUG JONES (D-AL): Well, first of all, number one, it's going to be simple because she's going to point to her record. There is nothing in her record as a judge that would indicate that.

KILLION: Law students who traveled to Washington are keeping a close eye on the proceedings.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENT QUIANA-JOY OCHIAGHA: But just to be here to have her back, it just means so much to me.

KILLION: This morning, senators will get 30 minutes each to question Judge Jackson and will go in order of seniority, so we could be here pretty late tonight, but she will face another round of questions tomorrow. Tony?

TONY DOKOUPIL: Nikole, thank you very much. We'll be following it.

(...)

8:01:51 a.m.
14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: History on Capitol Hill]

NATE BURLESON: Questions begins today in the nomination hearing of Supreme Court justice nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson.

JACKSON: My parents have taught me unlike the many barriers they had had to face growing

up, my path was clearer.

(....)

8:02:36 a.m.

21 seconds

KING: But can we say something about Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. What a feeling that must have been to be there where she was with her parents being able to sit there and watch her.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah.

BURLESON: That's right.

KING: A feeling for both of them.

BURLESON: There was a lot of emotion in the room. You could hear her husband tapping his foot —

KING: Yes, I saw that.

DOKOUPIL: — constantly and, at one point, she went for a tissue. I don't know if she was on the verge of tears, but a lot of people in the room were.

KING: It was quite a moment.

BURLESON: Quite a moment.

KING: That's so true.

BURLESON: What a moment that was.