

NBC's *Today*

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7:01:18 a.m. [TEASE]

25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: In the Hot Seat]

HODA KOTB: In the hot seat. Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson set to face questions on Capitol Hill this morning after addressing senators for the first time.

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: It is extremely humbling to be considered for Justice Breyer's seat. [SCREEN WIPE] But if confirmed, I would hope to carry on his spirit.

KOTB: Republicans signaling how they plan to challenge her. We're live inside the hearing room.

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7:13:21 a.m.

3 minutes and 21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Supreme Court Showdown]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Back home now, the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson is moving forward on Capitol Hill. She'll be questioned by senators today after opening statements yesterday that set the tone for the week ahead. NBC's Garrett Haake is following it for us, joins from inside that hearing room. Garrett, good morning.

GARRETT HAAKE: Hey, Savannah, good morning. Judge Jackson will be back in this room in this chair for as long as 12 hours today, the most pivotal day of her confirmation hearings where senators get up to 30 minutes each to put her record and life under the spotlight. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on Monday introducing herself to the nation and to the senators who will decide if she becomes the first African American on the Supreme Court.

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.

HAAKE: Backed by beaming family, including her daughter and teary-eyed husband, Jackson thanking her parents for encouraging her on this historic course.

JACKSON: They gave me an African name — Ketanji Onyika, which they were told means lovely one. [SCREEN WIPE] Unlike the many barriers that they had had to face growing up, my path was clearer.

HAAKE: Jackson spoke for just 12 minutes Monday. Today, she'll face 30-minute rounds of

questions from all 32 members of the committee. Some Republican senators previewing lines of questioning and attack.

SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN (R-TN): You once wrote that every judge has “personal hidden agendas.” Then influence how they decide cases. So, I can only wonder what’s your hidden agenda is. Is it to let violent criminals, cop killers, and child predators back to the streets? [SCREEN WIPE] You have made clear that you believe judges must consider critical race theory when deciding how to sentence criminal defendants. Is it your personal hidden agenda to incorporate critical race theory into our legal system?

HAAKE: Democratic senators noting magnitude of the moment —

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ): We are on the precipice of shattering another ceiling.

HAAKE: — confident in her ability to present her own best defense. [TO KLOBUCHAR] What do you expect to hear from Judge Jackson in this hearing?

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN): I think what you’re going to see in the questioning today is someone who knows herself. She knows why she made certain decisions and she is just going to charm people at home.

GUTHRIE: Well, Garrett, it is more than likely that Judge Jackson will be confirmed. Democrats control the Senate. They have the tie-breaking vote with the Vice President. Will Republicans cross the aisle? In her confirmation last year for the appellate court, three Republicans did.

HAAKE: That's right. One of those Republicans, Lindsey Graham, will have a chance to ask questions of Judge Jackson today. The other two Republicans, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, don't sit on the committee but they have voted for the majority of President Biden's judicial nominees. They’re not likely to say how they are going to vote until her nomination comes to the floors. And, Savannah, that’s — Democrats hope will be done by Easter.

GUTHRIE: Garrett Haake on Capitol Hill for us. Going to be a long day there. Stay with NBC News. We will have live coverage of today's hearing.