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## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **The California Association of Black Lawyers Celebrates President Biden's Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the U.S. Supreme Court**

**Oakland, CA (March 1, 2022)** The California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL), led by President Aileen Casanave, celebrates Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's historic nomination to the United States Supreme Court. America is one step closer to having a Supreme Court that reflects the rich diversity of our country. Judge Jackson's nomination marks a new chapter for the history of Black women and for our democracy.

Judge Jackson was born in Washington, DC and grew up in Miami, Florida. Her parents attended segregated primary schools. Both went on to attend historically black universities. They served as public school teachers and leaders in the Miami-Dade Public School System. Judge Jackson's father attended law school when she was in preschool. She traced her love of the law to watching her father study by reading cases and preparing for Socratic questioning, while she undertook her preschool homework of devouring coloring books.

Judge Jackson was a high achiever and natural leader throughout childhood. She was student body president and elected "mayor" of Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Despite this, a high school guidance counselor warned Judge Jackson that should not set her "sights so high" when she mentioned applying to Harvard University. Judge Jackson was not discouraged by these remarks. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University, then attended Harvard Law School, where she graduated *cum laude* and was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

A former clerk for Justice Breyer, Judge Jackson has wide-ranging experience across the legal profession, as a federal appellate judge, a federal district court judge, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an attorney in private practice, and as a federal public defender. Judge Jackson was confirmed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis three times, most recently last year for her current seat. Because of her diverse and broad experience, Judge Jackson has a unique appreciation of how critical it is for the justice system to be fair and impartial. She also understands the profound impact that the Supreme Court's decisions can have on the lives of the American people.

Judge Jackson is a most eminently qualified, extraordinary attorney and jurist with a proven record of excellence, who just happens to be a Black woman. She has already inspired countless Black women and girls to set their sights higher as they watched her shatter this former glass ceiling.

CABL's fervent hope is that Judge Jackson is treated fairly during her confirmation process. If she is judged not on the color of her skin and her gender, but on the content of her extraordinary record, she should receive overwhelming bipartisan support.