WHO IS JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON?

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is a superstar. After growing up in Miami, Judge Jackson went on to an incredibly accomplished legal career – attending Harvard and even clerking for retiring Justice Stephen Breyer. She is beyond ready for this lifetime appointment. She would not only be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, she would also be the first former public defender and the first Supreme Court Justice with experience as a clerk at every level of the Federal Judiciary, and she has more than 8 years of judicial experience. That’s more prior experience as a judge than that of current Justices Clarence Thomas, Amy Coney Barrett, Elena Kagan, and John Roberts combined.

WHAT DOES THE SUPREME COURT DO?

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States, the head of our nation’s judicial branch. (There are three branches of the Federal government: The judicial branch, executive branch (the president and federal agencies), and the legislative branch (Congress). The Supreme Court is made up of nine judges called justices. The president of the United States nominates justices when a seat opens up – usually when a current justice decides to step down and retire, or when a justice dies – but the Senate must approve them. A seat on the Supreme Court is a lifetime appointment, meaning that once the nominee is approved, the new justice will serve until death or retirement.)
HOW DOES THE SUPREME COURT IMPACT MY LIFE?

The Supreme Court has the power to decide whether a law is working the way it is supposed to work or is consistent with the U.S. Constitution, or whether an action taken by Congress, the President (including federal agencies), a state, or a private entity has followed the law. From how your employer can treat you, to whether and how you can access healthcare, to how hard it is to cast a vote in an election, the Supreme Court’s decisions affect many people’s lives.

WHEN WILL JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON BE ON THE SUPREME COURT?

Judge Jackson was recently nominated by President Biden to be the newest member of the Supreme Court to replace Supreme Court Justice Breyer, who will retire in 2022. Next she will need to be confirmed by the United States Senate by a majority vote. The Senate’s process includes a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee, followed by a vote on the floor of the Senate, and then she will be able to join the Court.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This is a major historical moment; she will be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. There have been 115 Supreme Court Justices since the Court was founded in 1789 and the vast majority of them – 108 – have been white men. For years, women were overlooked entirely as potential Supreme Court nominees and even after that barrier was broken, qualified Black women were never put forward.

She will be only the sixth woman to serve on the Court and the second woman of color. This is also important because of the power the Supreme Court has. In recent years, the Supreme Court’s majority has been using the Court’s power to reshape many parts of American life and laws. We need a legal superstar like Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a voice of reason and the rule of law on the Court. Her voice and ability to bring her unique lived experience into her opinions will be key to upholding equal justice principles and pushing back on unfairness in the Court’s decisions. She is exactly the right person for this job.

YES! Let’s celebrate this moment! The more the merrier because you know there are haters out there trying to find something wrong with her. Here are some actions you can take:

- Take Action! Tell the Senate to Confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson!
- Plug into Black Women’s Roundtable’s Events in Supporting Ketanji Brown Jackson
- Support the Supreme Court Rally
- Read the White House’s Page on Ketanji Brown Jackson
- Share our images and awesome things on social!