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## Navajo Nation congratulates Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on historic Supreme Court Confirmation

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer offer their heartfelt congratulations to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on her historic confirmation to the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Jackson was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday, by a vote of 53-47. She will be the first African American woman to sit on the country's highest court. The vote included all 50 Senate Democrats as well as three Republican Senators including Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Mitt Romney of Utah.

"We are grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for nominating such a qualified candidate, and we look forward to the unique perspective that Judge Brown will bring to the Court for many years to come," said President Nez. "It is important to bring diversity to the court, especially diversity of perspective. Given the degree of oversight tribes are subjected to by the Federal court system, a Native American perspective would be a valuable addition to the Court. We look forward to the day that a Native American is selected to sit on the Supreme Court."

Many court analysts have also commented on the importance of having someone with a background fighting for defendant rights on the Court. When she is sworn in, Judge Jackson will be the first justice ever to have worked as a public defender. The last justice who had substantial experience representing low income and marginalized defendants was Thurgood Marshall, who retired over 30 years ago. By contrast, eight of the nine current Justices represented the government in court prior to their appointment, either as prosecutors in criminal matters, or as government attorneys in civil matters.

"The United States of America continues to strive as the land of opportunities, this includes the newly confirmed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. Today's confirmation is historical as Justice Jackson will serve as the first black female Supreme Court Justice. As Justice Stephen Breyer continues to serve as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court until the summer, we offer our gratitude for his service to the United States in hearing and creating lawmaking decisions based upon his expertise. We wish him and his family very well as he will step into retirement. As the largest sovereign Nation, we will continue to respect and uphold the decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, specifically when it presents the hearing and ruling of Native American issues. Our best wishes and congratulations to Justice Jackson," stated Vice President Lizer.

President Nez also encouraged the Senate to move forward with confirming some of the other Biden nominees, including Roselyn Tso, a member of the Navajo Nation, as the Director of the Indian Health Service, and Sunshine Sykes, also Navajo, as a Federal District Court Judge for the Central District of California.

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