

Jackson Defended Poor People



(AP) — The judge President Joe Biden has chosen to fulfill his historic pledge to name the first Black woman to the Supreme Court would also bring rare experience of defending poor people charged with crimes.

While Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson shares the elite educational background of current justices, she would be the first justice since Thurgood Marshall, the legendary civil rights lawyer who was the first Black person on the court, with significant criminal defense work on her resume. She also spent time advocating on behalf of people held without charge at Guantanamo Bay.

Jackson, 51, is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School and currently a federal appeals court judge in Washington. She spent a year as a young lawyer working for the justice she would replace, Justice Stephen Breyer, who is retiring.

Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in Miami. She traces her interest in the law to when she was in preschool and her father was in law school and they would sit together at the dining room table, she with coloring books and he with law books. Her father became an attorney for the county school board and her mom was a high school principal.

She also has family in law enforcement. Her younger brother was a police officer in Baltimore and served in the Army before becoming a lawyer. Two uncles were also police officers. In high school, Jackson



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson speaks after President Joe Biden announced Jackson as his nominee to the Supreme Court. (AP photo)

was the president of her public high school class and a debate champion.

Over the course of her career, Jackson has worked for large law firms but also was a public defender. As a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, she was part of a unanimous vote to allow thousands of people already in federal prison for crack-related crimes get their sentences reduced as

a result of a new law.

Prison isn't a distant concept for Jackson. She has an uncle who received a life sentence for a drug-related crime until it was commuted by former President Barack Obama.

Jackson's work on the Sentencing Commission paved the way for her to become a federal judge.

ANNOUNCING THE

ORABSE SCHOLARSHIP

The Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators (ORABSE) wants to help Black students across the state of Oregon to pursue their goals.

The application is due on April 3, 2022. Applicants will be notified of their status by May 1, 2022

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Current college student or graduating high school senior, pursuing a higher education degree
- Reside in the state of Oregon.
- Have a satisfactory GPA (3.0+) for graduating high school seniors is preferred, satisfactory academic status for returning college students)

For more information, visit ORABSE.org

