

STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

As an organization whose mission is to transform public defense in America, we are constantly thinking about the future. Unpacking the thousands of intersecting challenges that touch the lives of the people we fight for—primarily low-income, Black and Brown people—and considering how to develop collaborative, empowering strategies to protect our clients from the systems that too often harm them.

It is in this mindset—hopeful, ambitious, aspiring toward equity and liberation—that we have received the news of Judge Jackson’s nomination. It is with great satisfaction and joy that we praise President Biden’s choice to elevate a former public defender to the nation’s highest court.

Public defenders are unique among attorneys. They choose a path of incredible difficulty, fighting for individuals whom our system so often seeks to silence and oppress, facing the inequities and power imbalances that afflict our legal system day in and day out. They take on these responsibilities because they believe in the rights of the individual to be protected from government overreach, they believe in humanizing every accused person and seeking paths to restoration rather than carceral punishment, and they believe, above all, in standing up for the protections guaranteed by our Constitution. There is no nobler calling, and to have a member of this profession included, for the first time, on the US Supreme Court would be a tremendous stride forward for justice in America.