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Black Press Salutes President Biden’s Supreme Court Nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson



Among Judge Jackson’s more notable rulings were Congress’ ability to investigate the White House. She ordered the disclosure of certain documents by former President Donald Trump related to the January 6 insurrection.

Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Three times the Senate has confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson – twice unanimously.
Now, an evenly divided Senate will face the task

of confirming Judge Jackson to the highest court in America and, in the process, make her the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.
On Friday, February 25th, President Joe Biden made Judge Jackson his choice to succeed Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced his retirement in January.
“It’s because of Judge Brown Jackson’s experience in roles at all levels of the justice system, her charac-

ter, and her legal brilliance that President Biden nominated her to the D.C. Circuit Court, after which she earned her third Senate confirmation,” White House deputy press Secretary Andrew Bates wrote in an earlier statement.
While on the campaign trail two years ago, Candidate Joe Biden pledged to nominate to the Supreme Court the first Black woman.

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Glenn Jones	Production
Edwin Buggage	DNW Staff Writer	Pubinator.com
Editor	Glenn Summers	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Fleur De Lis	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Philip Marcelo	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Stacy M. Brown	@gmail.com
Accounting	Charles Krupa/AP	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

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President Biden has kept that promise.

Since Justice Breyer's retirement announcement, the President maintained his commitment despite expected Republican pushback.

Administration sources said after interviewing candidates, the President narrowed his choices to three finalists: Judge Jackson, Leandra Kruger, the California Supreme Court justice; and J. Michelle Childs, the judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina.

While many viewed Kruger as a dark horse, Childs enjoyed the support of Democratic powerbroker Congressman James Clyburn of South Carolina.

However, Judge Jackson's experience and the three previous Senate confirmations made her nearly a no-brainer for a President who desperately needs a victory in a divided country.

More than 170 Black Harvard alumni recently submitted a letter to the White House asking that President Biden select Judge Jackson.

Additionally, the prominent Florida-based Cuban American Bar Association, its board members, and past presidents sent a note to the White House supporting Judge Jackson's nomination.

Born in D.C., the 51-year-old jurist grew up in Florida and went to high school in Miami.

"Judge Brown Jackson spent her formative years in Miami-Dade County, still has family in Miami, and is a testament to the outstanding capacity of the Miami-Dade County public schools," read a letter signed by more than thirty current and past leaders from the association.

"She is plainly exceedingly well qualified to assume the awesome responsibilities of a Supreme Court Justice, and her Miami roots will afford her a valuable perspective on the rights and lives of the people who come before the court."

The letter added that Biden's selection of Jackson "would be a lasting honor to this community and a powerful example of the value of diversity in the American justice system."

Comparatively, the Harvard letter also expounded the virtues of Judge Brown Jackson.

"We are Black alumni of Harvard University, and we write to urge you to nominate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States," the letter stated.

"We represent a broad cross-section of America. We are civic and corporate leaders, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, public school teachers, professors, doctors, law-



Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson speaking about her nomination after being introduced by President Joe Biden.



CEO and President of NNPA, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., speaking of Ketanji Brown Jackson nomination, "Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will fight for African Americans and communities of color."

yers, and stay-at-home parents, among others."

Judge Brown Jackson ascended to her current position in June 2021. She served as a United States District Judge, vice-chair, and commissioner on the United States Sentencing Commission.

The 51-year-old District native, who shares two children with her husband Patrick Jackson, worked in civil and criminal appellate litigation in both state and federal courts for Morrison & Foerster LLP.

Judge Brown Jackson also served as an assistant federal public defender in the appeals division of the Office of the Public Defender in D.C.

She served as a law clerk for three federal judges – Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, Judge Bruce Selya, and Judge Patti Saris.

Though the selection represents a historic moment in American history, the court will maintain its 6-3 conservative edge as it tackles high-profile and controversial cas-



If confirmed this would be more historical with two women of color would hold two of the highest seats in the land. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson speaking while Vice-President Kamala Harris watching history unfold.

es, including gun rights, religious liberty, and abortion.

"Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will fight for African Americans and other communities of color. We haven't had this on the Supreme Court since Justice Thurgood Marshall," said National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

"This is a great day for African American women and for all others who believe in equality and justice," added NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards. "Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is not only the best-qualified candidate, but she also brings a perspective that is not present currently on the Supreme Court. The NNPA salutes President Biden for this historic nomination."

Justice Clarence Thomas, a Black conservative, had never aligned himself with mainstream African American issues.

Judge Jackson once took Justice Thomas to task, telling him, "I don't

understand you."

Candidly, Judge Jackson remarked toward Justice Thomas during a lunch meeting two decades ago, "You sound like my parents. You sound like the people I grew up with."

She said the "lessons he tended to draw from the experiences of the segregated South seemed to be different than those of everybody I know."

With a 50-50 Senate, Democrats do not need Republican help to confirm Judge Jackson.

Democrats can accomplish the historic confirmation with their fifty votes and Vice President Harris breaking a deadlock.

Three Republican senators – Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Susan Collins of Maine – supported Judge Jackson when the jurist earned confirmation to the appellate court.

Among Judge Jackson's more notable rulings were Congress'

ability to investigate the White House. She ordered the disclosure of certain documents by former President Donald Trump related to the January 6 insurrection.

Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up near Miami in Florida. She was a member of the debate team at Miami Palmetto Senior High School before earning her undergraduate degree and a law degree at Harvard.

During a 2021 confirmation hearing for the appellate court, Judge Jackson noted her background as a defense attorney and shared that her parents were public servants.

"I come from a background of public service. My parents were in public service, and my brother was a police officer and, in the military," Judge Jackson remarked.

"Being in the public defenders' office felt very much like the opportunity to help with my skills and talents," she noted.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said he would seek to push the nomination through quickly.

"Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has a spectacular record impeccable credentials, and her perspective will be a breath of fresh air on the court. She is exceptionally qualified to serve on the Supreme Court," said Congresswoman Val Demings (D-Fla.).

"In the coming years, the Supreme Court is likely to hear cases that may determine the long-term direction of American life and the safety and constitutional rights of every American. Judge Jackson has demonstrated throughout her career that she will be impartial, meticulous, and will put the law and Constitution first in every case," Congresswoman Demings continued.

"In less partisan times, she is the kind of nominee who might have been confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. I expect every member of the Senate to give Judge Jackson full and fair consideration. This remarkable Floridian should be confirmed without delay."

Marcella Howell, President and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Reproductive Justice Agenda, called Judge Jackson highly qualified with a proven record of fighting for human and civil rights.

"The U.S. Supreme Court should reflect the values and lived experiences of all Americans, not just the politics of a few," Howell stated.

"This historic nomination is an important step in that direction. Ketanji Brown Jackson can make that a reality, and we urge the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to immediately hold hearings. We call on the U.S. Senate to bring the nomination to a vote without delay."

2022 Zulu Ball Highlights

Photos by Glenn Summers

After two years the Zulu Ball is back and better than ever. Thousands gathered for an amazing night that was enjoyed by all, and Data News Weekly was there!!!

Pictured are Data News Weekly's Photographer Glenn Summers and Editor Edwin Buggage. Amongst Zulu's participants pictured is "Mr. Big Stuff" Windell Bean.



2022 King and Queen of Zulu - King Randolph "Rudy" Davis and Queen Crystal Guillemet.



NOLAReady: City of NOLA lifting mask mandate for most public indoor spaces. Vax/test requirement remains in effect.
Details at ready.nola.gov/restrictions

2022 Injuns Are Back!!!

Glenn Jones
Data News Contributor

Black Masking (Mardi Gras Indians) were out in full glory from uptown to downtown to all-around town. These are just a few examples of the beautiful feathers and beading that was on display. Don't worry if you missed seeing your favorite tribe, we still have St. Joseph's Day. Watch out for this don't miss it!!!



Indian in purple and orange "Big Chief Dow of the Tim Buck Tu Tribe



"Big Queen", Patrice Gordon of the Golden Blades Tribe and Logan Green



The crowd looks on as the Indians march by.



Cyril Neville and family - wife Gaynielle, daughter Lirya and Cyril Neville.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

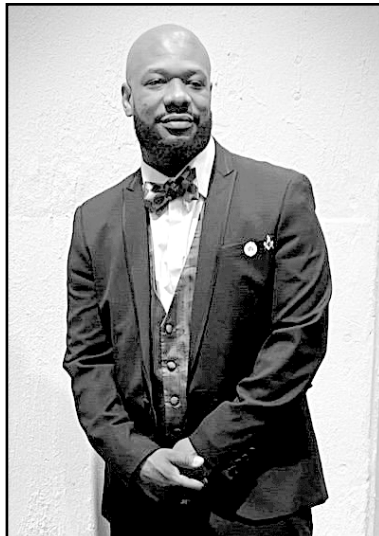
Carnival Time... Celebrating Life New Orleans Style

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

What's up all my beautiful people of the 5-0-4? It was an amazing Carnival Season. As a lover of all things New Orleans, I can say that it was great to see so many of our people trying to get to some sense of normalcy.

As you know we are a people who love to live life to the fullest, and this season, food, family, and fun was on full display. After two years of COVID-19 that's changed people's lives, New Orleans as always have shown the world why our way of life is the envy of the world. And, why people flock here to experience our city. Having our first full carnival in two years, and it was a ball for all.

"It has been two years since the Mardi Gras holiday has been celebrated in New Orleans. The Coronavirus has made me nostalgic for the parade season, Krewe Balls, and parties. This year I had the great privilege and opportunity



"This Mardi Gras was about bringing the Company to the ORIGINAL city. The passion of being able to represent the city and bring the city's tradition to the followers of Mardi Gras Tyme. We have been going live on IG. Being a part of the Zulu is an extension of generations and traditions in the family. So, to be a part of it was a dream come true" says Craig Jones, a New Orleans native, who presently resides in Maryland and owner of Mardi Gras Tyme Catering.



"This year I had the great privilege and opportunity to attend the Zulu Coronation Ball with my parents where I met Randolph Davis, a family friend, and the 2022 Zulu King," says Terrol Perkins, a student at Xavier University.

to attend the Zulu Coronation Ball with my parents where I met Randolph Davis, a family friend, and the 2022 Zulu King," says Terrol Perkins, a student at Xavier University.

Continuing he says "There were thousands of people attending the

Ball and the atmosphere gave me a sense of normalcy. I felt as if COVID were a distant memory and we as a society had moved on, despite this not being the reality of the situation. I also gathered with my family and friends to enjoy the Endymion Parade, and, once again, I felt as if COVID had faded into the History Books. Hopefully, by this summer my hopes would have come into fruition and our lives will be completely normal. Happy Mardi Gras to all."

"This Mardi Gras was about bringing the Company to the ORIGINAL city. The passion of being able to represent the city and bring the city's tradition to the followers of Mardi Gras Tyme. We have been going live on IG. Being a part of the Zulu is an extension of generations and traditions in the family. So, to be a part of it was a dream come true. Says Craig Jones, a New Orleans native, who presently resides in Maryland, He

is the owner of Mardi Gras Tyme Catering and has a popular salt free spice on the market. He returned to spend time with family and friends, and to ride in the Zulu parade.

With COVID-19 still out there we are still asking all to be careful, mask up get vaccinated and boosted. Once we reach herd immunity, we can all get back to a more normal life, and we may be on our way to accomplishing that, but it will take all of us doing our part.

I know we can do it. I loved going out and seeing so many people enjoying what we do in the N.O. Of course, I as so many others are looking forward to an incredible festival season. Where we can all say "Laissez le bon temps rouler" (Let the good times roll). Until next time this is your people Fleur De Lis, giving you everything 5-0-4 and all things New Orleans. Celebrating our amazing and unique city, its heritage, traditions and most importantly, its people.

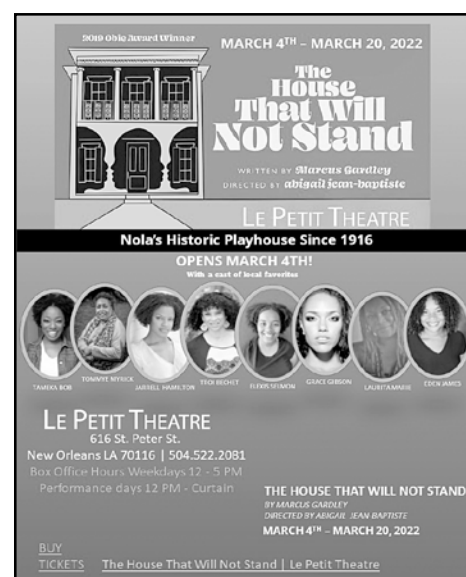
State & Local News

Le Petit Theatre opens Spring 2022 Season with Marcus Gardley's Obie Award-Winning Stage Play "The House That Will Not Stand"

Data News Staff Edited
Report

NEW ORLEANS - Termed "Sensuous, witty, heartbreaking, and uplifting" by the critics, The House That Will Not Stand, Marcus Gardley's 2019 Obie Award-winning stage production about free women of color in early 19th Century New Orleans, opens its three-weekend run at Le Petit Theatre on Friday, March 4TH.

The play's storyline involves a Black Creole woman named Beartrice and her three unwed daughters and an old New Orleans custom of rich White men entering into common-law marriages with young women of color. But the house that Beartrice built - on a foundation of wealth, freedom, and secrets - threatens to collapse after her man mysteriously dies and her daughters realize that his money could cost them the people they love. The House That Will Not Stand is a humorous and gripping family drama



and reimagines understandings of the past. She has directed shows in New York and elsewhere in the U.S. and has won a number of prestigious awards.

Staged in conjunction with National Women's Month, the all-woman cast features Big Easy Award-winning Actor Troi Bechet in the lead role of Beartrice. Portraying one of her daughters is veteran Actor/Director and multiple award-winner, Tommye Myrick, who returns to the stage following her critically acclaimed direction of FLY in February.

Other cast members include Tameka Bob, Grace Gibson, Jarrell Hamilton, Elexis Selmon, Laurita Marie and Eden James.

Twelve performances of The House That Will Not Stand will be staged over a three-week run from March 4TH - 6TH, March 10TH - 14TH, and March 17TH - 20TH.



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Abolition Newspaper Revived for Nation Grappling with Racism

The Emancipator was America's First Newspaper Dedicated to Advocating for the End of Slavery. Because Racism is Still so Prevalent in this Country, the publication will be Resurrected over 200 Years Later.



Amber Payne, left, and Deborah Douglas co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication of "The Emancipator" pose at their office inside the Boston Globe, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, in Boston, CHARLES KRUPA VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philip Marcelo

BOSTON (AP) — America's first newspaper dedicated to ending slavery is being resurrected and reimagined more than two centuries later as the nation continues to grapple with its legacy of racism.

The revived version of The Emancipator is a joint effort by Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research and The Boston Globe's Opinion Team that's expected to launch in the coming months.

Deborah Douglas and Amber Payne, co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication, say it will feature written and video opinion pieces, multimedia series, virtual talks and other content by respected scholars and seasoned journalists. The goal, they say, is to "reframe" the national conversation around racial injustice.

"I like to say it's anti-racism, every day, on purpose," said Douglas, who joined the project after working as a Journalism Professor at DePauw University in Indiana. "We are targeting anyone who wants to be a part of the solution to creating an anti-racist society because we think that leads us to our true north, which is democracy."

The original Emancipator was founded in 1820 in Jonesborough, Tennessee, by Iron Manufacturer Elihu Embree, with the stated purpose to "advocate the abolition of slavery and to be a repository of tracts on that interesting and important subject," according to a digital collection of the monthly newsletter at the University of Tennessee Library.

Before Embree's untimely death from a fever ended its brief run later that year, The Emancipator reached

a circulation of more than 2,000, with copies distributed throughout the South and in northern cities like Boston and Philadelphia that were centers of the abolition movement.

Douglas and Payne say drawing on the paper's legacy is appropriate now because it was likely difficult for Americans to envision a country without slavery back then, just as many people today likely can't imagine a nation without racism. The new Emancipator was announced last March, nearly a year after the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in May 2020 sparked social justice movements worldwide.

"Those abolitionists were considered radical and extreme," Douglas said. "But that's part of our job as journalists — providing those tools, those perspectives that can help them imagine a different world."

Other projects have also recently come online taking the mantle of abolitionist newspapers, including The North Star, a media site launched in 2019 by Civil Rights Activist Shaun King and Journalist Benjamin Dixon that's billed as a revival of Frederick Douglass' influential anti-slavery newspaper.

Douglas said The Emancipator, which is free to the public and primarily funded through philanthropic donations, will stand out because of its focus on incisive commentary and rigorous academic work. The publication's staff, once it's ramped up, will largely eschew the typical quick turnaround, breaking news coverage, she said.

"This is really deep reporting,

deep research and deep analysis that's scholarly driven but written at a level that everyone can understand," Douglas said. "Everybody is invited to this conversation. We want it to be accessible, digestible and, hopefully, actionable."

The publication also hopes to serve as a bulwark against racist misinformation, with truth-telling explanatory videos and articles, she added. It'll take a critical look at popular culture, film, music, and television and, as the Pandemic eases, look to host live events around Boston.

"Every time someone twists words, issues, situations or experiences, we want to be there like whack-a-mole, whacking it down with the facts and the context," Douglas said.

Another critical focus of the publication will be spotlighting solutions to some of the nation's most intractable racial problems, added Payne, who joined the project after working as a Managing Editor at BET.com and an Executive Producer at Teen Vogue.

"There are community groups, advocates and legislators who are really taking matters into their own hands so how do we amplify those solutions and get those stories told?" she said. "At the academic level, there's so much scholarly research that just doesn't fit into a neat, 800-word Washington Post op-ed. It requires more excavation. It requires maybe a multimedia series. Maybe it needs a video. So, we think that we are really uniquely positioned."

The project has already posted

a couple of representative pieces. To mark the one-year anniversary of the Jan. 6TH insurrection at the U.S. Capitol Building, The Emancipator published an interview with a Harvard Social Justice Professor and commentary from a Boston College Poetry Professor.

It also posted on social media a video featuring Ibram X. Kendi, Founding Director of BU's Anti-Racism Center and Author of "How to be an Antiracist," reflecting on White supremacy. Kendi co-founded the project with Bina Venkataraman, Editor-at-Large at The Boston Globe.

And while the new Emancipator is primarily focused on the Black community, Douglas, and Payne stress it will also tackle issues facing other communities of color, such as the rise in Anti-Asian hate during the global Coronavirus Pandemic.

They argue The Emancipator's mission is all the more critical now as the debate over how racism is taught has made schools the latest political battleground.

"Our country is so polarized that partisanship is trumping science and trumping historical records," Payne said. "These ongoing crusades against affirmative action, against critical race theory are not going away. That drumbeat is continuing and so therefore our drumbeat needs to continue."

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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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