

# United States Senate

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 5, 2026

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.  
Chief Justice of the United States  
United States Supreme Court  
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

I write today regarding recent reporting about Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's attendance at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, on Sunday, February 1, and the ethical questions raised by her attendance at such a highly politicized event.<sup>1</sup> For the following reasons, I urge you to conduct a thorough investigation into Justice Jackson's attendance at this event and whether her presence at such an event complies with the obligation that a Supreme Court justice "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."<sup>2</sup>

While it is by no means unheard of or unusual for a Supreme Court justice to attend a public function, very rarely—if ever—have justices of our nation's highest Court been present at an event at which attendees have amplified such far-left rhetoric. Many of the attendees wore lapel pins that read "ICE OUT," an anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) adage. One Grammy winner that evening opened his acceptance speech by stating, "Before I say thanks to God, I'm going to say 'ICE out,'" which was received with thunderous applause by the crowd.<sup>3</sup> Another award recipient that evening noted in her acceptance speech that "No one is illegal on stolen land," going on to say that "we need to keep fighting and speaking up and protesting . . . And f\*\*\* ICE, that's all I'm gonna say."<sup>4</sup> These statements were just two of many polarized, highly charged anti-law enforcement sentiments from that evening. It is important to note that Justice Jackson was present in the audience throughout the event.

Congressional Democrats and the legacy media have spent years smearing Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices as corrupt, partisan, and having engaged in conduct that violates the

<sup>1</sup> Maureen Groppe, *Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson Gets Shout Out But No Win at Grammys*, USA TODAY (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2026/02/02/supreme-court-justice-ketanji-brown-jackson-grammy/88473579007/>.

<sup>2</sup> Code of Conduct for Justices of the Sup. Ct. of the U.S. (2023), Canon 2(A).

<sup>3</sup> Ben Sisario, *Stars Bring 'ICE OUT' Pins and Fiery Speeches to a Political Grammys*, NY TIMES (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/02/arts/music/grammy-awards-ice-trump.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Preston Mizell & Greg Norman-Diamond, *Noem Responds to Bad Bunny, Billie Eilish Bashing ICE at Grammys: 'I Wish They Knew'*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 3, 2026), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/noem-responds-bad-bunny-billie-eilish-bashing-ice-grammys-wish-they-knew>.

Court's Code of Conduct. In one particularly egregious example, Senators Durbin and Whitehouse sent you a letter urging you to "take appropriate steps to ensure that Justice Alito will recuse himself in any cases related to the 2020 presidential election and January 6th attack on the Capitol" simply because Justice Alito's wife flew a Revolutionary War-era flag outside of their home.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, Senate Democrats spent months claiming—falsely—that Justice Thomas violated the Court's ethics code because he went on vacation with a long-time friend.<sup>6</sup> These public smear campaigns orchestrated by congressional Democrats and amplified by the mainstream media were baseless and a pathetic attempt to influence the decision-making process of the Court.

Unlike these meritless claims against Justice Alito and Justice Thomas, there are serious questions regarding Justice Jackson's participation in such a brazenly political, anti-law enforcement event and her ability to remain an impartial member of the Supreme Court. In addition to its requirement that justices remain impartial, the Court's Code of Conduct also states that recusal should apply "where an unbiased and *reasonable person* who is aware of all relevant circumstances would doubt that the Justice could fairly discharge his or her duties."<sup>7</sup> Following Justice Jackson's participation in such a partisan and inflammatory event, an investigation into her ability to remain impartial with respect to immigration matters that come before the Court is urgently needed.

To that end, in the interest of a fair-minded, impartial, and independent federal judiciary, I urge you to initiate an investigation into Justice Jackson's attendance at this event and if her participation in any way would require recusal from matters that will come before the Court.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from Senator Durbin and Senator Whitehouse to Chief Justice Roberts (May 23, 2024), <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-05-23-Letter-to-CJ-Roberts.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Brianna Herlihy, Bill Mears, & Shannon Bream, *Clarence Thomas Formally Reports 2019 Trips Paid by Friend and GOP Donor Harlan Crow*, Fox News (June 7, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/clarence-thomas-formally-reports-2019-trips-paid-friend-gop-donor-harlan-crow>.

<sup>7</sup> Code of Conduct for Justices of the Sup. Ct. of the U.S. (2023), Canon 3(B)(2) (emphasis added).