

to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine Vidal, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vidal nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter to the Senate Archivist be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2022.

KAREN D. PAUL,
*Senate Archivist, Senate Historical Office,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. PAUL: I understand that you have been charged with implementing a provision in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 that offered a very limited number of senators up to \$2.5 million each for the preservation of their records. This is a shocking amount of money, well beyond what could possibly be necessary for processing and preserving records, even for long serving senators with a lot of records. On September 22, 2021, my staff alerted the Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee of my decision not to accept any of the funding being proposed. It was my understanding at that time that the Appropriations Committee would reduce the funding appropriated accordingly.

With a budget deficit for the current fiscal year expected to be well over \$1 Trillion, and ballooning debt that is on pace to reach an all-time record as a share of our economy within 10 years, spending millions of taxpayer dollars on a handful of senators'

records cannot be justified. The tradition in the Senate is for academic institutions to agree to store and manage former senators' records as part of their academic mission. Some senators seek to go beyond simple preservations of records and establish centers to perpetuate their legacy. However, funds for new facilities or other functions beyond simply storing records are traditionally raised privately. The taxpayers should NOT be on the hook for senators' legacy projects. As a working senator, I am not focused on my legacy. I often say that my legacy will be decided by historians decades into the future with the benefit of hindsight. As such, my legacy is not something I can or should worry about.

Again, I did not seek these funds and I oppose their expenditure. I ask that you not transmit paperwork to the future repository of my records. I also ask that any funding that is eligible to be spent on the preservation of my records remain in the Treasury to reduce the deficit.

Sincerely,

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
United States Senator.

PS: Read and signed by this Senator.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. I have had the privilege of serving in this body for nearly three decades now.

In that time, I have participated in the confirmation hearings of 10 Supreme Court Justices and hundreds of nominees to our Federal circuit and district courts. I have carefully scrutinized Judge Jackson's record and listened very closely to her testimony. In my view, Judge Jackson is both well qualified and extremely prepared to take on the important role of serving on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson is a graduate of both Harvard University and Harvard Law School, a former Supreme Court clerk, a former Federal public defender, and a former U.S. Sentencing Commissioner. On top of that, Judge Jackson has served as a federal judge for nearly a decade.

Judge Jackson would be the first Federal public defender to sit on the Supreme Court and the first Justice since Thurgood Marshall with significant experience representing low-income defendants in criminal cases. As a former public defender, Judge Jackson truly understands the power of our constitutional rights, including the Sixth Amendment right to counsel and the Fifth Amendment right to due process. Judge Jackson would also join Justice Sotomayor as the only former Federal district court judges serving on the Supreme Court.

What has impressed me most about Judge Jackson does not appear on her resume. That is Judge Jackson's steadfast commitment to the fair and impartial application of the law, her deep knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, and her remarkable judicial temperament. These qualities were dem-

onstrated in her testimony before the Judiciary Committee earlier this month. They were also shown in the letters and testimony of the many people—of all ideological viewpoints—who have supported Judge Jackson's nomination.

First, Judge Jackson's respect for the law and the Constitution are clear from the nearly 600 legal opinions she has drafted as a Federal judge. Her legal opinions are clear and detailed. As she explained during her confirmation hearings, Judge Jackson carefully and fairly applies the law to the specific facts of each case. And Judge Jackson takes the time to explain why she reached each decision. In my view, it is important that the decisions of the Supreme Court are accessible to the American people. Judge Jackson's approach to judicial decision-making will help to ensure transparency in her judging and help to restore the public's confidence in the decisions of the Supreme Court.

Second, Judge Jackson clearly has deep legal knowledge. During her more than 20 hours of testimony before the Judiciary Committee, she spoke with skill on a wide range of topics. She addressed legal issues of all kinds, including separation of powers, the First Amendment, administrative law, criminal sentencing, and much more. I believe Judge Jackson has the knowledge and expertise to decide the most difficult and pressing legal issues facing this Nation.

Finally, during her hearings, Judge Jackson also showed that she has a remarkable temperament. Lawyers and judges who have worked with her, or appeared before her, have confirmed that Judge Jackson brings this temperament with her in all aspects of her work. They have told the Senate that she is as collegial, calm, and steadfast as she appeared to be during her hearings.

For example, Judge Thomas Griffith testified in support of Judge Jackson's nomination and focused on her character and temperament, in addition to her exceptional qualifications. Judge Griffith is a retired judge of the D.C. Circuit and was appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush. Judge Griffith said that Judge Jackson has modeled the ideal qualities of a judge, including diligence, carefulness, high character, deep legal knowledge, and broad experience.

Witnesses from the American Bar Association also testified about Judge Jackson's sterling reputation for integrity. Those witnesses interviewed lawyers and judges who have known and worked with Judge Jackson at various points over the course of her career. And, in those interviews, lawyers and judges who were familiar with Judge Jackson uniformly praised her character. They called her "first rate," "impeccable," and "beyond reproach." One comment said: "You write the word 'integrity,' and then you put her initials next to it."

The American Bar Association's interviews also revealed that prosecutors and defense attorneys alike regard Judge Jackson as fair, balanced, and unbiased. She is precisely the kind of Justice we need on the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is plainly up to the task of faithfully interpreting our Constitution and our laws and fairly applying the law in each and every case.

Judge Jackson laid out in simple terms the three-part methodology she uses in each case to ensure that her decisions are informed by the arguments of the parties, the facts, and the law, and not by any personal views she may hold. Judge Jackson's thoughtful methodology shows that she appreciates how important it is for judges to approach each and every case with an open mind and to avoid both actual and perceived conflicts of interest.

I believe Judge Jackson is an extraordinary person. Her rich family history in law enforcement and her background as a Federal public defender, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a trial judge, and an appellate judge will benefit our Supreme Court.

It will be my great pleasure to vote to confirm Judge Jackson to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. And I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC CIOPPA

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Eric Cioppa, the superintendent of the Maine Bureau of Insurance, who recently retired after more than three decades of distinguished public service to the State of Maine. Throughout his time at the bureau, Eric's leadership and service have benefited all Mainers and have contributed to the financial health of Mainers.

Eric joined the bureau in 1988 as a statistician before being named supervisor of the workers' compensation section. I had the pleasure of working directly with Eric when I was commissioner of the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. In 1998, he was promoted to deputy superintendent and was then appointed to the position of superintendent of the Maine Bureau of Insurance by Governor Paul LePage in 2011, a position to which he was unanimously confirmed, and then reconfirmed in 2017 to serve another 5-year term.

Throughout his service as superintendent, Eric's work has touched the lives of nearly every citizen in Maine. His tireless commitment to protecting insurance consumers, while also supporting ongoing competition and innovation in Maine's insurance industry, will leave a lasting positive impact on the State. Furthermore, numerous Governors have benefited from Eric's guidance and expertise on a wide range of insurance issues for decades, and his deep knowledge of Maine's insurance industry will be missed by all policy-makers.

Outside of Maine, Eric has been heavily involved in helping to set national priorities and developing new laws and regulations through his longtime service with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, NAIC. At NAIC, he has served as the association's president, vice president, and secretary, among other positions. Attributable to his stellar reputation, Eric was appointed by his peers at NAIC to serve a 2-year term as the State insurance commissioner representative on the Financial Stability Oversight Council in 2018 and was re-elected for another 2-year term in 2020.

Eric has also been an invaluable resource for me on insurance issues going back to my time as commissioner of the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. Throughout my service in the Senate, Eric has continued to provide wise counsel and advice to both me and my staff, and his wisdom and insight will be greatly missed.

Eric exemplifies the ideal public servant, and there is no doubt that Mainers are better off because of his longtime dedication to protecting and serving the public. I wish him and his family all the best as they embark on their next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND KEN DEGROOT AND SISTER MELANIE MACZKA

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the lives, careers, and achievements of Reverend Ken DeGroot and Sister Melanie Maczka. Together, Reverend Ken and Sister Melanie created the Casa ALBA Melanie a community center dedicated to serving the Hispanic population of the greater Green Bay area. Through Casa ALBA Melanie, and their ministerial service, Reverend Ken and Sister Melanie have welcomed members of the Hispanic community to our State with open arms for over 25 years.

It was 1991 when Reverend Ken first encountered the mission which would encompass the rest of his career. Two young men, fresh off the train from Mexico and at his doorstep, were tired, hungry, and could not speak English. Far from home and looking for a house of worship, Reverend Ken welcomed them into St. Willebrord parish. He decided that night that Green Bay could be the home they searched for.

They would find they were not alone. Thousands of people from Central and South America already lived in their community, working in a world where they could not speak the language. Today, it is estimated that at least 20,500 Hispanics live in the greater Green Bay area, and about 28 percent of the Green Bay school population is Hispanic. Alongside Sister Melanie, Reverend Ken decided things had to change. They traveled to Mexico, visiting villages, learning the culture and language of the neighbors they had never known they had. When they re-

turned to Green Bay, they knew they could work to better serve the Hispanic community.

In 2012, Reverend Ken and Sister Melanie established Casa ALBA Melanie and transformed the quality of life for Hispanic families by providing legal assistance, health services, language acquisition, Spanish GED lessons, financial assistance, and, perhaps most importantly, a safe haven for Green Bay's Spanish speaking residents.

This year, Casa ALBA Melanie celebrates its 10-year anniversary and with this great celebration comes a change in leadership. Reverend Ken, who has served as chair of the development committee and the finance committee, and Sister Melanie who has served as executive director, will both retire from the impactful organization they helped guide over this past decade. Their work is an inspiration to all people seeking to create a more equitable and welcoming America.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Reverend Ken DeGroot and Sister Melanie Maczka for their leadership at Casa ALBA Melanie and throughout the greater Green Bay community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LANE R. WILLIAMS

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator and Representative RUSS FULCHER, I recognize the life of an extraordinary Idahoan, Lane R. Williams, who passed away in February. Lane was the former owner of Midvale Telephone Exchange and is remembered for his commitment to advancing opportunities for others. This includes his role in keeping the Weiser area north to McCall connected through his telephone company.

His obituary reads, "Lane left behind a legacy of championing the underdog and empowering people by creating possibilities and opportunities. He did this in part by being an educator of many, including years spent working with migrant workers as a teacher. He always believed that education was the key to empowerment." In 1977, Lane took over Midvale Telephone Exchange from his parents and, with his wife Mary Gaille, began expanding service to five Idaho communities and to the remote Cascabel community in southern Arizona before building four additional areas throughout Arizona. This expansion is credited with enabling more than 4,000 people in rural areas to have internet and phone service and employing over 45 people. In 2008, Lane created an employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, and sold the company to his employees to help ensure their continued employment and security in retirement.

Lane was one of those industrious and inspiring people who figure out ways to help and encourage improvements in their community, and do