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Ketanji Brown Jackson

Ketanji Brown Jackson is an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. She was nominated by President Joe Biden (D) on February 28, 2022, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 7, 2022, by a vote of 53-47.^{[1][2][3]} Jackson received her judicial commission on April 8, 2022, and was sworn in as an associate justice of the court on June 30, 2022.^[4] Click here for more information on Jackson's U.S. Supreme Court nomination.

The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest judicial body in the United States and leads the judicial branch of the federal government. To learn more about the court, click here.

Prior to her confirmation to the Supreme Court, Jackson was a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Jackson was nominated to the court by President Joe Biden (D) on April 19, 2021, and confirmed by the United States Senate on June 14, 2021, by a vote of 53-44.^{[5][6][7]} She was previously a federal judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She joined the district court in 2013 after a nomination from President Barack Obama (D).^{[8][4]}

Ketanji Brown Jackson



Nonpartisan
Supreme Court of the United States

Tenure
2022 - Present

Years in position
0

Predecessor
Stephen Breyer

Prior offices
United States District Court for the District of Columbia
Successor: Florence Pan
Predecessor: Henry Kennedy

United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
Predecessor: Merrick Garland

Education
High school Miami Palmetto High School, 1988
Harvard University, 1992

Judicial nominations and appointments

Supreme Court of the United States (2022-present)

See .




On February 28, 2022, President Joe Biden (D) nominated Jackson as a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.^[9] She was confirmed by a 53-47 vote of the U.S. Senate on April 7, 2022.^{[2][3]}

To read more about Jackson's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, click here.

To read more about the federal nominations process, click here.

Confirmation vote

The U.S. Senate confirmed Jackson by a vote of 53-47 on April 7, 2022.^[2] To see a full breakdown of the vote on the official U.S. Senate website, click here .

Jackson confirmation vote (April 7, 2022)			
Party	Yea	Nay	No vote
 Democratic	48	0	0
 Republican	3	47	0
 Independent	2	0	0
Total	53	47	0

Senate Judiciary Committee hearings

See also: Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmation hearings

The Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on Jackson's nomination over a four-day period from March 21 to March 24, 2022. On April 4, 2022, the committee cast an 11-11 tie vote to report Jackson to the full United States Senate for a confirmation vote. As a result, Jackson was not reported favorably to the Senate.^[11] On a 53-47 vote that same day, the Senate discharged her nomination from the committee.^[12] As of April 4, she was awaiting a confirmation vote from the full U.S. Senate. For more information on Jackson's confirmation hearings, **click here**.

Below is a brief overview of the hearings:

- **Day four (3/24/2022):** Witnesses supporting and opposing Jackson's confirmation spoke during the final day of hearings. Witnesses included the American Bar Association, five witnesses brought by Democrats, and five witnesses brought by Republicans.
- **Day three (3/23/2022):** Members of the judiciary committee questioned the judge, with each senator allotted 20 minutes. Topics in the questioning included Jackson's approach to sentencing, Jackson's recusal from *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard*, and the Supreme Court's use of emergency orders. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin (D-III.) also announced the committee would vote on advancing Jackson's nomination on April 4.^[13]
- **Day two (3/22/2022):** Members of the judiciary committee questioned the judge, with each senator allotted 30 minutes. Recurring themes in the questioning included abortion, Jackson's experience representing Guantanamo Bay detainees, LGBT issues, Jackson's sentencing record as a trial court judge, and Supreme Court expansion.
- **Day one (3/21/2022):** Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin (D-III.) and ranking member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) provided opening statements, followed by members of the committee. After the introductions, Jackson gave her opening statement.

Nomination

On February 28, 2022, President Joe Biden (D) nominated Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States.^[1] She was nominated to succeed Justice Stephen Breyer, who planned to retire at the start of the court's summer recess, which typically takes place in late June or early July.^[9]

During Breyer's January 27 retirement announcement, Biden said he would select a nominee who: "[W]ill be someone of extraordinary qualifications, character, experience and integrity. And that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court."^[14] On February 12, the *Associated Press* reported that Biden's shortlist included Jackson, J. Michelle Childs, and Leondra Kruger.^[15] Jackson was also mentioned by two or more media outlets as a possible nominee to fill Breyer's seat on the court.^{[16][17][18][19]}

Click here to read more about the vacancy and nomination process.

Law

Harvard Law School, 1996

Personal


Birthplace

District of Columbia

Contact

Official website

Nomination Tracker



Nominee Information

Name:

Ketanji Brown Jackson

Court:

Supreme Court of the United States

Progress

Confirmed 38 days after nomination.

✓

Nominated: February 28, 2022

✓

ABA Rating: *Unanimously Well Qualified*

Questionnaire:

Questionnaire

✓

Hearing: March 21-24, 2022

QFRs:

(Hover over QFRs to read more)

✓

Reported: April 4, 2022^[10]

✓

Confirmed: April 7, 2022

✓

Vote: 53-47

https://ballotpedia.org/Ketanji_Brown_Jackson

2/9

The American Bar Association rated Jackson unanimously well qualified.^[20] To read more about ABA ratings, click here.




United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (2021-2022)

See also: Federal judges nominated by Joe Biden

On April 19, 2021, President Joe Biden (D) nominated Jackson to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She was confirmed by a 53-44 vote of the U.S. Senate on June 14, 2021. Jackson received commission on June 17, 2021.^[5] To read more about the federal nominations process, click here.

Confirmation vote

The U.S. Senate confirmed Jackson on June 14, 2021, on a vote of 53-44.^[21] To see a full breakdown of the vote on the official U.S. Senate website, click here .

Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmation vote (June 14, 2021)			
Party	Yea	Nay	No vote
 Democratic	48	0	0
 Republican	3	44	3
 Independent	2	0	0
Total	53	44	3

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing

The committee voted to advance Jackson's nomination to the full Senate on May 20, 2021.

Nomination

On March 30, 2021, President Joe Biden (D) announced his intent to nominate Jackson to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The president officially nominated Jackson on April 19.^{[5][7]}

Jackson was nominated to replace Judge Merrick Garland, who retired from the court to become attorney general of the United States on March 10, 2021.^[7]

The American Bar Association rated Jackson *well qualified*.^[22] To read more about ABA ratings, click here.

United States District Court for the District of Columbia (2013-2021)

See also: Federal judges nominated by Barack Obama

On September 20, 2012, President Barack Obama (D) nominated Jackson to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.^[23] The U.S. Senate confirmed Jackson by voice vote on March 23, 2013.^[24] She received commission on March 26.^[4] To read more about the federal nominations process, click here.

Confirmation vote

The U.S. Senate confirmed Jackson on March 23, 2013, by voice vote.^[24]

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing

The Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on Jackson's nomination on December 12, 2012.^[23] The committee voted to advance her nomination to the full Senate on February 24, 2013.^[25]

Nomination

President Barack Obama (D) nominated Jackson to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on September 20, 2012, to the seat previously held by Henry Kennedy.^[8] Jackson's nomination was returned to the president at the *sine die* adjournment of the 112th United States Congress on January 3, 2013. President Obama resubmitted Jackson's nomination on January 4, 2013.^{[23][24]}

Jackson was rated *unanimously qualified* for the nomination by the American Bar Association.^[26] To read more about ABA ratings, click here.

Possible nomination to U.S. Supreme Court (2016)

See also: Process to fill the vacated seat of Justice Antonin Scalia

Before President Barack Obama's (D) nomination of Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court, Jackson was mentioned as a possible nominee to replace former Justice Antonin Scalia, who died on February 13, 2016.^[27]

Interview

On March 9, 2016, *National Public Radio* reported Jackson was interviewed by President Barack Obama as a candidate to succeed deceased Justice Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court.^[28]

On March 16, 2016, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to succeed Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court of the United States.^{[29][30]}

Biography

Early life and education

Jackson was born in 1970 in Washington, D.C.^[31] She then moved with her family to Florida, where she graduated from Miami Palmetto High School in 1988.^[32] She received a bachelor's degree in government, *magna cum laude*, and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard University in 1992 and 1996, respectively.^{[4][33][31]} She served as the supervising editor of the *Harvard Law Review* from 1995 to 1996.^[31]

Professional career

- **2022-present:** Justice, United States Supreme Court
- **2021-2022:** Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- **2013-2021:** Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- **2010-2014:** Vice chair/Commissioner, United States Sentencing Commission
- **2007-2010:** Of counsel (Private practice), Morrison & Foerster LLP, Washington, D.C.
- **2005-2007:** Assistant federal public defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender
- **2003-2005:** Assistant special counsel, United States Sentencing Commission
- **2002-2003:** Associate, The Feinberg Group, LLP
- **2000-2002:** Associate, Goodwin Procter LLP, Boston, Mass.
- **1999-2000:** Law clerk, Hon. Stephen Breyer, Supreme Court of the United States
- **1998-1999:** Associate, Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin LLP, Washington, D.C.
- **1997-1998:** Law clerk, Hon. Bruce Marshall Selya, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit
- **1996-1997:** Law clerk, Hon. Patti Saris, U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts^[31]

Awards and associations

Awards

- **2021:** Constance Baker Motley Award, Empowering Women of Color, Columbia Law School
- **2020:** Distinguished Visiting Jurist, Third Annual Judge James B. Parsons Legacy Award, Black Law Students Association, University of Chicago Law School
- **2019:**
 - Stars of the Bar Award, Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia
 - David T. Lewis Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence, The University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law
- **2014-2015:** Edward H. Levi Distinguished Visiting Jurist, The University of Chicago Law School^[31]

Associations

- American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section, Sentencing Task Force
- American Law Institute, Council
- Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court
- Harvard Alumni Association
- Harvard Black Alumni Society
- Harvard Club of Washington, D.C. (2002-2016)
- Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services
- Montrose Christian School Advisory School Board member (2010-2011)
- Supreme Court Fellows Commission
- Supreme Court Institute, Georgetown University, Moot Court Jurist (2003 -2009)
- Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Amicus Committee co-chair (2006)^[31]

About the courts

U.S. Supreme Court

The **Supreme Court of the United States** is the highest judicial body in the country and leads the judicial branch of the federal government. It is often referred to by the acronym **SCOTUS**.^[34]

The Supreme Court consists of nine justices: the Chief Justice of the United States and eight Associate Justices. The justices are nominated by the president and confirmed with the "advice and consent" of the United States Senate per Article II of the United States Constitution. As federal judges, the justices serve during "good behavior," which means that justices have tenure for life unless they are removed by impeachment and subsequent conviction.^[35]

On January 27, 2022, Justice Stephen Breyer officially announced he would retire at the start of the court's summer recess, which typically takes place in late June or early July.^{[36][37]} Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed to fill the vacancy by the Senate in a 53-47 vote on April 7, 2022.^[38] Click here to read more.

The Supreme Court is the only court established by the United States Constitution (in Article III); all other federal courts are created by Congress.

The Supreme Court meets in Washington, D.C., in the United States Supreme Court building. The Supreme Court's yearly term begins on the first Monday in October and lasts until the first Monday in October the following year. The court generally releases the majority of its decisions in mid-June.^[35]

To read opinions published by this court, click here .

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

The **United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit** is a federal appellate court with appellate jurisdiction. It hears appeals from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and its rulings may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

This court should not be confused with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, which is equivalent to a state supreme court in the District of Columbia, or with the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, whose jurisdiction is limited by subject matter. Appeals are heard in the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse in Washington, D.C.

Eight judges of the District of Columbia Circuit went on to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States: Fred M. Vinson, Wiley Rutledge, Warren Burger, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, John Roberts, and Brett Kavanaugh.

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has appellate jurisdiction over cases heard by the D.C. Circuit. These cases can include civil and criminal matters that fall under federal law. Appeals of rulings by the D.C. Circuit are petitioned to the Supreme Court of the United States.

To read opinions published by this court, click here .

District of Columbia Circuit

Court of Appeals



Judgeships

P Posts: 11
Judges: 10

Vacancies: 1

Judges

Chief: Sri Srinivasan

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

The **United States District Court for the District of Columbia** is one of 94 United States district courts. Cases dealing with the laws of the District of Columbia are heard by this court only under the same circumstances that would cause a case under state law to come before a federal court. Appeals from this court are heard by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The court sits in the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse located on Constitution Avenue NW. The District has no local district attorney or equivalent, and so prosecutorial matters fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. The District Court for the District of Columbia has original jurisdiction over cases filed in the District of Columbia. These cases can include civil and criminal matters that fall under federal law. The D.C. District Court hears federal cases within the District of Columbia. Its appellate court is the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

To read opinions published by this court, click [here](#).

The federal nomination process

Federal judges are nominated by the president of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. There are multiple steps to the process:

- The president nominates an individual for a judicial seat.
- The nominee fills out a questionnaire and is reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing with the nominee, questioning them about things like their judicial philosophy, past rulings or opinions, etc.
 - As part of this process, the committee sends a blue slip to senators from the home state in which the judicial nomination was received, allowing them to express their approval or disapproval of the nominee.
- After the hearing, the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote to approve or return the nominee.
 - If approved, the nominee is voted on by the full Senate.
 - If the Committee votes to return the nominee to the president, the president has the opportunity to re-nominate the individual.
- The Senate holds a vote on the candidate.
 - If the Senate confirms the nomination, the nominee receives a commission to serve a lifelong position as a federal judge.
 - If the Senate does not confirm the nomination, that nominee does not become a judge.

Noteworthy cases

Legal challenges to President Trump's civil service executive orders (2018-2019)

See also: *Civil Service Reform Act*, *E.O. 13836*, *E.O. 13837*, and *E.O. 13839*

The following timeline identifies key events in a 2018-2019 lawsuit, *American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, et. al. v. Trump*, brought by a group of federal employee unions against President Donald Trump's (R) three civil service executive orders issued in May 2018: Executive Order 13837, Executive Order 13836, and Executive Order 13839.

October 2019: Injunction expires, agencies allowed to implement executive orders

Active judges:

Julianna Michelle Childs, Karen Henderson, Greg Katsas, Patricia Ann Millett, Florence Pan, Cornelia T. L. Pillard, Neomi Rao, Srikanth Srinivasan, Justin Walker, Robert Leon Wilkins

Senior judges:

James Buckley, Harry Edwards, Douglas Ginsburg, Arthur Randolph, Judith Rogers, David Sentelle, David Tatel

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Circuit



Judgeships

Posts: 15

Judges: 14

Vacancies: 1

Judges

Chief: Beryl A. Howell

Active judges:

James E. Boasberg, Tanya S. Chutkan, Jia Cobb, Rudolph Contreras, Christopher Reid Cooper, Dabney Friedrich, Beryl A. Howell, Amy B. Jackson, Timothy J. Kelly, Trevor McFadden, Amit Priyavadan Mehta, Randolph D. Moss, Carl Nichols, Ana C. Reyes

Senior judges:

John Deacon Bates, Rosemary Collyer, Paul Friedman, Joyce Hens Green, Thomas Hogan, Ellen Huvelle, Henry Kennedy, Gladys Kessler, Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, Royce Lamberth, Richard Leon, Richard Roberts, Barbara Rothstein, Emmet G. Sullivan, Reggie Walton

The injunction blocking provisions of President Trump's three civil service executive orders expired on October 2, 2019. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on October 3 issued a mandate to implement its July 16 decision vacating the district court ruling and allowing federal agencies to fully implement the orders.^{[39][40]}

September 2019: D.C. Circuit declines rehearing request

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an order on September 25, 2019, declining to rehear *American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, et. al. v. Trump* before the full court. The order did not provide a reason for the decision.^[41]

August 2019: Unions file for rehearing *en banc* before full D.C. Circuit

Federal employee unions challenging Trump's three civil service executive orders filed a petition on August 30, 2019, requesting a rehearing of *American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, et. al. v. Trump* before the full United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit held in July that the court did not have jurisdiction to rule on the case because the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute requires labor practice complaints to be brought before the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA).^[42]

August 2019: SEIU files new lawsuit claiming civil service executive orders exceed president's constitutional authority

A chapter of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) representing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employees in Buffalo, New York, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York on August 13, 2019, arguing that President Trump's three civil service executive orders exceeded the president's constitutional authority and violated the Civil Service Reform Act. The union claimed that the district court had jurisdiction over the case in part because the FLRA had lacked a general counsel for almost two years—preventing the agency from hearing unfair labor practice complaints.^[43]

Because the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit has appellate jurisdiction over the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, the D.C. Circuit's July 2019 decision upholding the civil service executive orders was not controlling on the case.^[43]

July 2019: D.C. Circuit panel reverses district court ruling, holds district court lacked jurisdiction to issue injunction

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on July 16, 2019, reversed and vacated the district court ruling. Judges Thomas Griffith, Srikanth Srinivasan, and Arthur Randolph held that the district court did not have jurisdiction to rule on the merits of the executive orders and that the plaintiffs should have brought the case before the FLRA as required by the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.^{[44][45]}

Trump administration officials on July 23, 2019, asked the D.C. Circuit to immediately lift the injunction blocking enforcement of the three civil service executive orders rather than wait for the 45-day grace period for rehearing requests to expire. The court denied the administration's request on August 14, 2019.^{[46][47]}

April 2019: D.C. Circuit hears oral arguments in appeal, DOJ claims district court lacked jurisdiction in case

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments in the appeal on April 4, 2019. An attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) argued that the federal courts lacked jurisdiction in the case and that the plaintiffs should have filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) instead. An attorney representing the union groups countered that the FLRA lacked the authority to weigh in on governmentwide rules that are not subject to collective bargaining negotiations.^{[48][49]}

November 2018: OPM instructs agencies to comply with effective executive order provisions

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released a memo in November 2018 instructing federal agencies to comply with the provisions of the civil service executive orders that remained in effect, including guidelines related to employee discipline and the use of official union time.^[50]

September 2018: DOJ appeals district court ruling

The DOJ appealed the district court's ruling on September 25, 2018. The notice of appeal was filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Oral argument in the case was scheduled for April 4, 2019.^{[51][52]}

August 2018: District court ruling strikes provisions of executive orders, cites conflict with federal statute

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia struck down several provisions of President Trump's civil service executive orders in a ruling issued on August 25, 2018. The stricken provisions included components of the executive orders that Brown Jackson claimed conflicted with federal statute, such as limitations on the amount of taxpayer-funded time that full-time federal employees can dedicate to union activities, a reduction in the amount of time that poor-performing employees can demonstrate improvement, and certain restrictions on workplace issues that federal agencies can negotiate with unions.^{[53][54]}

A DOJ representative responded to the ruling on August 25, stating that the DOJ was "reviewing the decision and considering our next steps." Then-OPM Director Jeff Pon issued a memo to all federal agencies on August 29 stating that the OPM would comply with Jackson's order and encouraging compliance by other agencies. The OPM also rescinded agency guidance related to the blocked provisions of the executive orders.^{[53][55]}

May 2018: Unions file suit against civil service executive orders, claim orders are unconstitutional and violate federal statute

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Executive Order 13837 on May 30, 2018. The lawsuit claimed that the order violates freedom of association protections under the First Amendment and alters sections of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute—Title VII of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978—without congressional action.^{[56][57][58]}

Brown Jackson consolidated AFGE's lawsuit with two other lawsuits challenging Trump's civil service executive orders (E.O. 13837, E.O. 13836, and E.O. 13839) filed by the National Treasury Employees Union and a coalition of 13 smaller public sector unions. A hearing in the case took place on July 25, 2018.^[59]

See also

- Supreme Court vacancy, 2022
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia

External links

- Search Google News for this topic
- Biography from the Federal Judicial Center
- Supreme Court of the United States website
- White House press release announcing President Biden's intent to nominate Jackson

BP Suggest a link

Footnotes

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1. *White House*, "Nominations Sent to the Senate," February 28, 2022
2. *Congress.gov*, "PN1783 — Ketanji Brown Jackson — Supreme Court of the United States," accessed April 7, 2022

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3. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/04/07/jackson-confirmation-vote-senate/ The Washington Post, "Senate confirms Jackson as first Black woman on Supreme Court," April 7, 2022]

4. Federal Judicial Center, "Biography of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson," accessed May 10, 2017

5. Congress.gov, "PN391 — Ketanji Brown Jackson — The Judiciary," accessed June 15, 2021


Only the first few references on this page are shown above. Click to show more.

Political offices		
Preceded by Stephen Breyer	Supreme Court of the United States 2022-Present	Succeeded by -
Preceded by Merrick Garland	United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit 2021-2022	Succeeded by -
Preceded by Henry Kennedy	United States District Court for the District of Columbia 2013-2021	Succeeded by Florence Pan




Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States

[show]




Federal judges nominated to Article III courts by Joe Biden

[show]



Federal judges nominated by Barack Obama

[show]



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