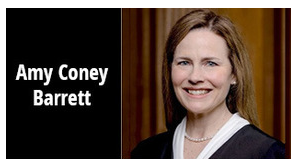
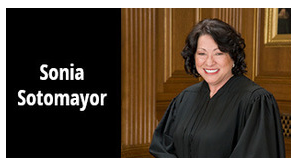


Little Justices: History in the Making

By: [Joseph K. Cole](#), Attorney at Law



At the end of my day, as I listened to the chaos – I mean playing – around me, I skimmed the daily headlines catching up on the latest news. One headline that caught my attention focused on the historic nature of President Joe Biden’s nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court. If confirmed, Judge Jackson will be the first African American woman on the Supreme Court. In addition, for the first time in the Court’s history, four of the nine Justices will be women.

It took almost two hundred years for the first woman, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, to be confirmed to the Court in 1981.¹ It took over a decade before Ruth Bader Ginsburg joined Justice O’Connor in 1993.² After Justice O’Connor’s retirement in 2006, Justice Ginsburg was the sole woman on the Court until Justice Sonia Sotomayor joined her in 2009 and then Justice Elena Kagan in 2010.³ Another decade would go by before Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the Court in 2020 replacing Justice Ginsburg after Ginsburg’s death.⁴

It is truly impressive how far we’ve come since Justice O’Connor broke through the glass ceiling in 1981. If confirmed, Judge Jackson will sit on the most diverse Court in the nation’s history. It strikes me that during Women’s History Month, history is being made right before us. As my daughters’ play grows ever louder and closer, I’m optimistic that they will grow up in a world where it is normal to see four, five, or even more women Justices on the Court. In a world where they can aspire to join the ranks of women Justices. But for now, we play.

Sources:

1 <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx>

2 https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/members_text.aspx

3 <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx>

4 *Id.*

5 *Photo 1:* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/kbj/>

6 *Photo 2-6:* <https://www.oyez.org/justices>

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