



REVERSAL RATE OF JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson served on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 2013-2021.ⁱ During that time, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned 11.9% of her decisions.ⁱⁱ When compared to all D.C. federal district judges for whom appeals analytics are available, Jackson’s reversal rate is in the bottom 36.4%.ⁱⁱⁱ When compared to all Democrat-appointed D.C. federal district judges for whom appeals analytics are available, Jackson’s reversal rate is in the bottom 30.8%.^{iv} This comparison is fair because all D.C. federal district judges share the same reviewing court—the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, on which Judge Jackson now sits. The D.C. Circuit Court is one of the more liberal courts of appeals in the nation, with 6 out of its 10 active judges (excluding Judge Jackson, herself a Democratic appointee) having been appointed by Democratic presidents.^v Jackson’s high reversal rate, especially before a court whose active judges tend to share her ideological orientation, signals low judicial competence.

D.C. Federal District Judges’ Reversal Rates

No.	Judge	% Negative Appeals ^{vi}	# Negative Appeals / # Total Appeals	Appointing President ^{vii}
1	Carl J. Nichols	0.0%	0/14	Trump
2	Randolph D. Moss	2.0%	1/51	Obama
3	Thomas F. Hogan	6.9%	19/275	Reagan
4	Reggie B. Walton	7.3%	30/411	G.W. Bush
5	Colleen Kollar-Kotelly	7.4%	42/564	Clinton
6	Rudolph Contreras	8.3%	9/108	Obama
7	John D. Bates	9.5%	39/411	G.W. Bush
8	Christopher R. Cooper	10.2%	11/108	Obama
9	Paul L. Friedman	10.2%	42/412	Clinton
10	Emmet G. Sullivan	10.7%	45/419	Clinton
11	Timothy J. Kelly	10.8%	4/37	Trump
12	Amy Berman Jackson	11.0%	19/173	Obama
13	Beryl A. Howell	11.2%	20/178	Obama
14	Ketanji Brown Jackson	11.9%	10/84	Obama
15	Royce C. Lamberth	12.4%	74/599	Reagan
16	Trevor N. McFadden	13.2%	10/76	Trump
17	Amit P. Mehta	13.2%	10/76	Obama
18	James E. Boasberg	13.7%	19/139	Obama
19	Dabney L. Friedrich	14.6%	6/41	Trump
20	Tanya S. Chutkan	16.9%	15/89	Obama
21	Richard J. Leon	17.0%	93/548	G.W. Bush
22	Florence Y. Pan	29.2%	7/24	Biden
	Jia M. Cobb*	Analytics Unavailable*	Analytics Unavailable*	Biden

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- i [U.S. S. Comm. on the Judiciary Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Comm. on the Judiciary, U.S. S.](#), 117th Cong., 2 (2022).
- ii All reversal data were obtained on February 25, 2022 from legal analytics available on the website for Westlaw, which contains judicial profiles and legal analytics for Judge Jackson and 21 of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia's 22 current active and senior judges. Westlaw appeals analytics were not available for the court's newest judge, Jia M. Cobb. A list of current D.C. federal district judges is available at United States District Court District of Columbia, *Judges*, <https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/judges> (last accessed on February 25, 2022). Westlaw reports reversal rates as "negative" appeal outcomes. Negative appeal percentages were calculated by dividing each judge's "negative" appeal outcomes by the total number of his or her appeals. Judge Jackson's reversal rate may change slightly as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit continues to adjudicate any remaining appeals from her district court orders.
- iii As recorded in the D.C. Federal District Judges' Reversal Rates Table, *infra*, among the 22 D.D.C. judges analyzed, Judge Jackson's reversal rate ranks 14/22, placing her in the bottom 36.4% for affirmance on appeal.
- iv As recorded in the D.C. Federal District Judges' Reversal Rates Table, *infra*, among members of this group who were appointed by Democratic presidents, Judge Jackson's reversal rate ranks 9/13, placing her in the bottom 30.8% for affirmance on appeal.
- v A list of current judges on the D.C. Circuit Court and their appointing presidents is available at Wikipedia, *United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_District_of_Columbia_Circuit#Current_composition_of_the_court (last accessed February 25, 2022).
- vi *See supra n.ii.*
- vii A list of current judges on the D.C. District Court and their appointing presidents is available at Wikipedia, *United States District Court for the District of Columbia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_District_of_Columbia#Current_judges (last accessed February 25, 2022).