



## Republicans Use Day 1 Of Ketanji Brown Jackson Hearing To Complain Dems Were Mean To Brett Kavanaugh

At no point did conservative lawmakers note that the reason Kavanaugh was harshly judged probably had to do with the fact that he'd been credibly accused of sexual assault.

BESS LEVIN  
MARCH 21, 2022

Since **Joe Biden** confirmed his campaign pledge to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court, Republicans and their surrogates in the conservative media have been predictably apoplectic about the long-overdue moment, engaging in all manner of not-so-coded racism to explain why such a move will destroy the country. Even before Biden officially named **Ketanji Brown Jackson** as his pick, Senator **Ted Cruz** insisted that solely focusing on Black women sent a message to the majority of Americans: "I don't give a damn about you." Mississippi Republican **Roger Wicker** claimed Biden's nominee would be a "beneficiary" of affirmative action. Former Cato Institute vice president **Ilya Shapiro** told his followers in a since-deleted tweet: "Objectively best pick for Biden is **Sri Srinivasan**, who is solid prog and v smart. Even has identity politics benefit of being first Asian (Indian) American. But alas doesn't fit into last intersectionality hierarchy so we'll get lesser black woman." Once Jackson was officially the nominee, **Tucker Carlson** demanded Biden release her LSAT scores, a requirement he does not appear to have had for any other Supreme Court nominee. In a long, absurd Twitter thread, Senator **Josh Hawley** claimed his (extremely misleading) "research" into Jackson revealed she has a soft spot, judicially, for child-porn offenders.

Because Republicans are among the most shameless people to walk the face of the earth, these attacks on Jackson will no doubt make an appearance throughout her confirmation hearings. As **Elie Mystal**, an attorney and the justice correspondent for *The Nation*, put it over the weekend, "All they have for her right now is racism and disgusting innuendo.... They don't have anything on her record."

But these hearings tend to start off slowly, and so GOP lawmakers didn't *entirely* use day one to focus on attacking on Jackson (though some managed to do so!). Instead, some spent their time complaining about how supposedly unfairly **Brett Kavanaugh** was treated by Democrats during his 2018 confirmation hearings, and claiming that they will be different because they have class.

"When we say that this is not Kavanaugh, what do we mean?" **Lindsey Graham** rhetorically asked Jackson. "It means that Democratic senators are not going to have

their windows busted by groups. That's what it means. It means that no Republican senator is going to unleash on you an attack about your character when the hearing is virtually over. None of us, I hope, have been sitting on information about you as a person. For weeks or months, you come into our offices and we never share it with you to allow you to give your side of the story.... None of us are going to do that to you, and if any of us does that to you, all hell will break out, and it should."

Of course, the reason Democrats went after Kavanaugh's character might have something to do with the fact that he'd been accused of attempted rape by one woman and of sexual assault by another, while a third said in sworn testimony that she witnessed "efforts" by Kavanaugh and his friends to "to cause girls to become inebriated and disoriented so they could then be 'gang raped' in a side room or bedroom by a 'train' of numerous boys." (Kavanaugh has denied the allegations.) During her testimony before the Senate in September 2018, **Christine Blasey Ford** was asked: "Dr. Ford, with what degree of certainty do you believe Brett Kavanaugh assaulted you?" to which she emphatically responded, "100%." Given that Kavanaugh was about to be given a lifetime position on the most important court in the country—and that, as we later found out, the FBI didn't actually fully investigate him—interrogating his character was, like, the least Democrats could do, even if Lindsey Graham thinks it was rude.

Also using his time to claim Kavanaugh was treated poorly was **Ted Cruz**, who, according to Insider, told Jackson: "You've heard a number of members on the Republican side of the aisle be quite clear on what" the hearings "should not be.... This will not be a political circus. This will not be the kind of character smear that, sadly, our Democratic colleagues have gotten very good at." Then he referred to the alleged attempted rape as "teenage dating habits."

Naturally, neither Graham nor Cruz noted that Jackson's character does not need to be put on trial because she has not been accused of sexual assault, or of any crimes for that matter. In fact, the only thing she could be credibly accused of is being an extremely impressive nominee who should clearly be confirmed to the high court. But somehow, we have a feeling Republicans won't be doing that. And it's truly a mystery why!