

STEVEN P. DINKIN A Path Forward

WITH JACKSON, HIGH COURT LOOKS MORE LIKE AMERICA

Men 5. Women 4. SCOTUS scorekeepers will recognize right away that I'm referring to the gender split, now that Ketanji Brown Jackson has been confirmed as our next Supreme Court justice. (SCOTUS stands for Supreme Court of the United States.)

When Jackson is sworn in this summer — following the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer — she will be the eighth justice in the court's 233-year history who is not a White man.

Following her confirmation, Jackson said, "I strongly believe that this is a moment in which all Americans can take great pride. We have come a long way toward perfecting our union. In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States."

While race was hugely important in President Joe Biden's decision to nominate Jackson — and adds to the historical significance of her confirmation, given that only two Black people (both men) have been named to the bench — her gender is equally

significant in our majority-female country.

Just five women — Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett — have served on the Supreme Court, ever. Scorekeepers know: That's a measly 4 percent of the total number of appointed justices.

Jackson has checked many of the same boxes on her career path as her future colleagues: Harvard Law School, Supreme Court clerk, federal appeals judge. Like Sotomayor, she served as a district court judge; uniquely, she was also a federal public defender, providing legal representation on behalf of poor people.

Still, Jackson's confirmation hearing was littered with low blows. Some senators voiced concerns about Jackson's sentencing record — which they considered to be too lenient — and the types of people she's defended. One senator imagined (out loud) that Jackson would defend Nazis.

Somehow, for me, their questioning was offset by a single poignant moment, captured by New

York Times photographer Sarahbeth Maney. She snapped a picture of Jackson's teenage daughter, Leila, who was seated behind her mother, beaming. Her pride was palpable.

If it took Jackson "just one generation" to go from segregation to the Supreme Court, I wonder: Could we be close to a time when the appointment of a justice — who happens to be a mom — isn't thought to be so momentous?

It seems likely, given the pre-eminence of women in our educational institutions. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, nearly 60 percent of students at universities and colleges today are female; just over 40 percent are male. Fifty years ago, the gender proportions were reversed. In law schools, women make up almost 55 percent of students, a trend that began in 2016.

And at every level, beginning in high school, women are graduating at higher rates than men. Teachers say that female students are more engaged, coming to class prepared and eager to learn. Sev-

enty percent of high school valedictorians are girls.

As someone who benefited from a system that has long favored White males, I cheer the advances for women. And I look forward to the day when appointments to the Supreme Court are gender blind.

But as a society, we have to avoid overcorrection. This can't become a zero-sum game. And frankly, I worry about our boys and men. Bestselling author and business professor Scott Galloway wrote a brilliant piece on this very topic in his newsletter last fall called "A Few (er) Good Men."

Galloway drew a line directly from educational attainment to marriage rates, which have been declining here for decades. He noted that the sharpest decline has been among men in the lowest earning quartile (35 percent), a phenomenon that has both economic and societal implications.

Galloway said, "A large and growing cohort of bored, lonely, poorly educated men is a malevolent force in any society, but it's a truly terrifying one in a society

addicted to social media and awash in coarseness and guns. Increased frustration about their lack of life choices and greater jealousy stoked by the images of success they see on their screens will push underachieving men further toward conspiracy theories and radicalization." He cited this proof point: Of the people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol, 86 percent are men.

The opportunity conferred on Ketanji Brown Jackson, as a woman and person of color is an important step forward. Her history-making appointment as our next Supreme Court justice should be celebrated by all.

However, we must do more, for the good of our country. We can't keep our boys on the sidelines. It's even more important to our future than settling the score.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit ncrconline.com

CANDIDATES

FROM B1 national conflicts dragging down President Joe Biden's approval ratings, Republican challengers may find avenues to attack Levin's Democratic affiliation, he said.

"I think if he makes this a race about his record, he stands a great shot," Kousser said. "If this is a race about Joe Biden, he's in trouble."

Several of his challengers have made it clear they consider the race a direct challenge to Biden's policies.

"I'm running for Congress because our country is on the wrong track," Maryott said, citing crime, cross-border drug trafficking, inflation and national debt as issues he attributes to Democratic leadership. "Joe Biden has shown that he is not capable of navigating the many crises impacting our lives."

Maryott is hoping that discontent with Democrats will give him a second shot at the district, which he lost to Levin by about 6 percentage points in 2020.

Levin, 43, has served in Congress since 2019, and previously worked as an attorney on environmental and energy regulatory compliance and government affairs. He previously served on the board of the San Diego-based Center for Sustainable Energy and co-founded CleanTech OC in Orange County. Levin lives in San Juan Capistrano, and was born and raised in South Orange County.

Levin said his experience in environmental law has helped him advance climate action legislation. He also

co-founded a bipartisan caucus to develop disposal systems for spent nuclear fuel and secured federal funding to deal with coastal erosion and clean up pollution in the Tijuana River Valley. Levin has the endorsement of the Democratic Party of San Diego.

"I'm a passionate believer in clean energy and have over a decade of experience in the industry, helping to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable power generation and transportation options," Levin said.

His key goals in Congress, Levin said, are "combating climate change and growing our clean energy economy, strengthening benefits and services for veterans and their families, and safely removing the nuclear waste from San Onofre."

Maryott, 59, is a resident and former mayor of San Juan Capistrano, who has lived in Southern California for 25 years. With a background as a certified financial planner, he frames his campaign as an effort to improve fiscal management of the U.S. government. He has been endorsed by the Republican Party of San Diego in the rematch.

"With inflation rising and our economic futures becoming more uncertain, we need more financial planners in Congress who have seen the damage that bad financial decision-making in Washington has on everyday Americans," Maryott said.

His top priorities include "getting a sustainable economy back on track, ending the humanitarian crisis at the border, and enacting term limits so that no one can spend their entire life in Congress."



Six of seven candidates for the 49th Congressional District, clockwise from top left are Renee Taylor, Nadia Smalley, Chris Rodriguez, Lisa Bartlett, Mike Levin and Brian Maryott.

Bartlett, 62, was born and raised in Southern California and is the first Japanese American to serve as an Orange County supervisor. She has held that seat since 2014 and served as mayor of Dana Point from 2009 to 2014. Bartlett previously worked in real estate and finance and said her business background prepared her for a wide range of public challenges.

"As a county supervisor and mayor, I have always put public safety first, opposed tax increases, and worked to fix government woes with common sense solutions," she said. "We implemented solutions to address homelessness, built a best-in-class innovative behavioral health hub, ensured small businesses received resources to survive draconian lockdowns, invested in clean air initiatives to protect our coastline, working to safely decommission the San Onofre Nuclear Powerplant, and made govern-

ment more efficient, accountable, and transparent."

Bartlett said if elected she would focus on "curbing inflation, restoring economic prosperity, strengthening public safety, fixing our broken education system, securing the border, and protecting our beautiful coastline and environment."

Rodriguez, 37, has served on the Oceanside City Council since 2018. He owns a real estate firm and family farm. Rodriguez came to Oceanside as a Marine Corps recruit at Camp Pendleton and served two combat tours in Iraq.

"I have fought for our community serving as an Oceanside City Council member where I have pushed for lower taxes, job creation and common-sense solutions to fix the homeless crisis plaguing California cities," he said.

Rodriguez said his priorities for Congress would be "Inflation. Education.

Law and Order." He highlighted several issues that have been national rallying cries for conservatives, stating that he opposes increased government spending, "defund the police efforts" and what Republicans call "critical race theory" curriculum in schools.

"I believe parents should be in control of their child's education, and they should be empowered to remove their children from failing schools," Rodriguez said.

Smalley, 51, is a Vista resident who said she has lived in North County since 2018 and has worked as a traveling hospice nurse, blues singer and business owner.

"As a north San Diego county traveling hospice nurse, I took on emotionally challenging end-of-life assignments; this has given me the privilege of working with a large part of our community and I believe being involved in the community qualifies me for this position," Smalley said.

She said her goals would be "to eradicate homelessness, local business development and public sanitation measures for pandemic strategies."

Taylor, of San Juan Capistrano, said she is a member of the Air National Guard and worked in a civilian career focusing on information technology and cybersecurity management. She said her military career has included serving as an H F-16 crew chief, in combat communications, on special duty assignment at the Pentagon, as ambassador on cyber defense to Ukraine through NATO, and leading teams in joint, multi-national exercises.

She said her priorities include addressing housing

and homelessness, secure borders, military and veterans issues and aging and the elderly.

"For nearly 24 years, I have been a servant leader, and have always envisioned myself as a national leader," Taylor said, adding that when her military career ended, "I decided there was no time like the present to pursue the priorities — military and veterans, aging and the elderly, housing, and national security initiatives — that have been on my radar for many years."

O'Neil did not respond to questions from The San Diego Union-Tribune. O'Neil's campaign website describes him as an Army veteran who served as a combat medic and then as a police officer, deputy sheriff and special agent of the U.S. Department of State.

Members of the president's party often face difficult re-election prospects in midterm elections, and this year's races could be particularly tough for Democratic incumbents, analysts say. Levin has focused on his district and avoided wading into national controversies, Kousser said, which may position him better than other Democrats in swing districts.

"I think he wants to make all politics local in this race," Kousser said. "He wants to make it about him and what he's done for the district: not about culture wars, not about the Squad."

The seven candidates will compete in the primary election on June 7, and the top two vote-getters will go on to the general election in November.

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PROWLER

FROM B1 errasanta hostage situation, Trussell broke into four homes and committed a carjacking, but no further information about those crimes has been released.

Trussell did not appear in court last week to enter a plea. A prosecutor said Trussell was in an advanced observation unit at Central Jail, but it was unclear why. The unit monitors inmates who may pose a danger to themselves or others.

Deputy District Attorney Meghan Buckner said Trussell was on parole at the time of the break-ins. According to the complaint, Trussell was convicted of robbery in North Carolina in 2009 and convicted of a "hot prowler" residential burglary in San Diego in 2018.

Here's how the crime spree unfolded, according to the police records and video:

12:27 a.m. Saturday

A 911 caller reports that a man tried to open a window to a child's bedroom at a home on Rueda Drive near Tierrasanta Boulevard. The man manages to break the window screen before taking off in a white minivan.

12:51 a.m.

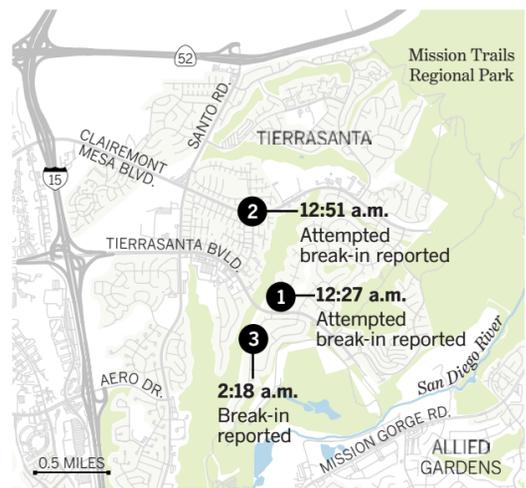
While officers are searching for the prowler, another 911 caller reports that a man tried to break into a home on La Cuenta Drive near Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. The caller reports having seen the man in his backyard, then losing sight of him. A dispatcher records a description of the prowler.

1:26 a.m.

Video from a home security camera shows a white minivan pulling into the driveway of a two-story house on Vi-

Tierrasanta prowler

On April 9, an intruder tried several times to break into homes in Tierrasanta, and eventually was able to get inside a residence where he held a woman at gunpoint, according to police.



Source: San Diego Police Department; OpenStreetMap

acha Drive, off Rueda Drive near Tierrasanta Boulevard.

2:18 a.m.

A man breaks into the house on Viacha Drive. A resident — a 53-year-old woman — calls 911 and reports the burglary.

"I have an intruder in the house that's naked," the woman tells a dispatcher.

"OK, how did he get in?" the dispatcher asks.

"I don't know. I was sleeping," the woman replies. She and her father hide upstairs. She clarifies that the intruder is wearing shorts.

The intruder runs up and down the stairs and masturbates in a bathroom.

2:25 a.m.

An officer asks the dispatcher to confirm that the woman doesn't know the man

and wasn't expecting anyone.

Officers arrive. Two officers jump a fence and head to the backyard to look for the intruder.

2:27 a.m.

Another officer sees a man who seems to match the description of the intruder in an upstairs bedroom that faces the driveway. "I can see him through the window," the officer says over the police radio.

The officer then asks the dispatcher to run the license plate number of the white minivan parked in the driveway.

2:28 a.m.

"Hey, tell the (woman) that they need to lock themselves in whatever room they're in," an officer tells a dispatcher, "and we might have to force entry to come get this guy."



A suspect is taken into custody after he took a woman hostage in a home in Tierrasanta early April 9. The hostage was rescued.

ONSCENE.TV

A dispatcher tells officers the license plate belongs to a 2016 White Honda Odyssey that was reportedly carjacked.

2:29 a.m.

An officer in the backyard makes "verbal contact" with the woman's father. "Sir, sir," the officer says on body-worn camera video.

Seconds later, the intruder breaks through a door to a room where the woman is hiding. She screams.

Another officer in the backyard jumps into action. He uses a baton to shatter a glass sliding door. The two officers in the backyard step into the living room and walk through the home.

"Where is he?" one of the officers asks.

When they get to the bottom of the stairwell, the officers see the intruder and the woman.

"Let me see your (expletive) hands! Let me see your hands!" one of the officers shouts as he starts to walk up the stairs, holding a flashlight in his left arm and gripping his handgun, still in its holster, with his right hand.

Both officers point their handguns up the staircase. The intruder holds a handgun to the woman's head.

"Gun, gun!" officers shout as they take a few steps back.

2:30 a.m.

An officer issues a request over the police radio for all on-duty and on-call SWAT officers to respond with their lights and sirens activated.

Officers near the stairwell try to talk to the man while he holds the woman at gunpoint in a bedroom.

"This is a hostage situation," the intruder tells officers.

"Why?" an officer asks.

"We have a Mexican standoff," the man states.

"Why is this a hostage situation?" the officer asks.

"Cause I don't have no way out, so I gotta take a hostage with me," the man replies.

"No, no you don't," the officer says.

2:35 a.m.

An officer climbs onto a balcony and helps the woman's father walk out onto the balcony.

Another officer — possibly a supervisor — tells other officers over the police radio not to go upstairs to the bedroom.

"There's a door," the officer on the balcony states over the police radio. "If I can access it, I should have a clear shot at him."

The other officer insists that officers hold their positions. "I don't want to force this guy into a situation we don't want to deal with, OK?"

Just hold the perimeter," he says. "We're waiting on (SWAT officers)."

2:39 a.m.

The man tells officers they'll "have to send a SWAT team."

"And then what?" an officer asks.

"I want you to back out ... before I shoot her," the man replies. "I'm going to shoot her in the kneecap."

"No! No!" the woman yells. "Please, God. Please, God, no!"

The man fires a round. The woman screams.

"What was that?" an officer standing near the bottom of the staircase shouts.

The woman tells officers that the gun went off accidentally and no one was hurt.

2:40 a.m.

An officer armed with a rifle climbs onto a neighboring rooftop.

2:41 a.m.

From the rooftop, Officer Patrick Richards can see the hostage-taker and fires several rounds at him through a window.

The man, who was not injured, drops to the floor and tosses the gun.

Inside the house, officers ask the woman if she can walk down to them. "Come out, come out, come out," one of the officers shouts. "Come down, come down."

The woman runs down to them.

2:44 a.m.

The man surrenders. He lies on his stomach near the top of the stairwell. With guns in hand and police dog on standby, officers make their way up the stairs to the suspect and handcuff him.

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