

Taylor Moore, learning to teaching cont'd.

COVID-19 during his second semester on campus accelerated his career trajectory.

"I am grateful for this opportunity with the CDC," Moore said. "I never thought that I would have an opportunity like this, especially this soon, being just 25 years old. It just goes to show that there are different ways to become successful, and there are different pathways that will lead you to your designated career."

On a personal level, Moore took advantage of leadership development opportunities after joining the Public Health Student Association, serving as treasurer his first year on campus then as president his second.

On the pandemic front, he assisted the Hamilton County Health Department with its social media efforts and helped distribute packaged food to students in isolation. He spoke at targeted health strategy events in Chattanooga and Knoxville, advising and teaching methods

to increase quality of life such as ways to exercise at home while social distancing.

Since beginning his one-year CDC fellowship in October 2021, Moore has worked on various communications topics such as Alzheimer's disease, school health and epilepsy. He worked remotely from his home in the Nashville area before heading to CDC headquarters in Atlanta late last month.

Moore always had plans to pursue public health as his profession. That choice led him into paths he hadn't considered.

"Coming here to UTC in the fall of 2019, I never imagined working at the CDC, much less just getting an interview from them a few months after graduating," Moore said. "I don't know where I'll end up after the fellowship, but I plan on taking advantage of all the resources they provide me."

Councilman Byrd's New Position, cont'd.

Committee as part of those efforts.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue this urgent work on behalf of our community," Councilman Byrd said. "Serving the residents of District 8 has been the honor of my life, and I'm looking forward to the chance to serve all the residents of every district moving forward as the city implements Mayor Kelly's One Chattanooga strategy."

In order to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, Councilman Byrd will not attend any further City Council meetings as an elected official, and will not take part in any votes.

Byrd's new assignment for the city, will become effective once confirmed by City Council.

Reports indicate that as a council member, Byrd's salary was \$26,919. His salary as clerk will be \$85,000.

The city court handles traffic, parking, and garbage violations and in some instances, animal cases. The clerk runs the office, supports the judges, keeps the records, and collects the fines.

The remaining members of City

Council will determine how to proceed in filling the District 8 seat. Chairman Chip Henderson said the council will appoint an interim City Council member for District 8.

Chairman Henderson also stated in the past the council has specified that the interim agree not to run in the upcoming special election. Currently, there are council members, including Isiah Hester, Demetrus Coonrod, and Ken Smith, who agree the interim should have the right to run in the August election.

Those interested in the interim position can file a letter of interest starting Feb. 16. The interim candidates will be interviewed by the City Council on March 8 and will be able to make three-minute presentations at the 6 p.m. meeting. The council will then make an interim selection.

The application for the District 8 election will open Feb. 17 at the election office through noon on April 7. The voters will then choose the District 8 council person at the already scheduled election in August, 2022.

Black Woman Supreme Court recommendations, cont'd.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ketanji Brown Jackson, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia; Sherrilyn Ifill, NAACP Legal Defense; Leondra Kruger, California Supreme Court; Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th District.

tor Richard J. Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, who as Judiciary Committee chairman will shepherd the nominee through that panel; and Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the majority leader, who controls the floor. Schumer went on the record immediately, saying he wants the entire process to take weeks, not months.

If the Democrats move fast, and there are no defections as there were on the filibuster change and other aspects of Biden's domestic agenda, a new Justice can be seated shortly after Justice Brey-

er officially steps down. As an example of how quickly things can move, when Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died six weeks before the 2020 election, Republicans led by Mitch McConnell pushed through the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to replace her in a little over five weeks. That should be the marker for the Democrats.

There are certainly qualified Black women judges ready to accept the nomination. They include a federal judge in Biden's home state, J. Michelle Child. She was suggested by Representative Ja-

mes E. Clyburn of South Carolina back when the discussion was in the theoretical stages. Now she's certainly a viable possibility.

But the name that was initially raised as soon as news of Breyer's retirement became known is Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. She currently serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, and she went through the Senate confirmation process last year when Biden elevated her from the Federal District Court. She's certainly also a logical and excellent choice.

However The Tennessee Tribune cites another person who would be fantastic. We think President Biden should nominate the Honorable Angelita Blackshear Dalton. She's currently Judge of Division II of the Davidson County Criminal Court. Her qualifications and expertise were such that Republican Governor Bill Haslam appointed her to succeed Retired Judge J. Randall Wyatt on the Court. Dalton was first elected to the Davidson County General Sessions Court in 2006, becoming the first African American woman elected to a judgeship in Davidson County. She was re-elected for a second term in 2014. Prior to assuming the bench, Dalton served in various positions with the Davidson County District Attorney General's Office from

1997 through 2005, including a specialized assignment on the domestic violence prosecution team.

Thanks to rule changes, Supreme Court nominations are now free of the filibuster. But you can expect the Republicans to do everything in their power to obstruct getting a Black woman on the court. They can demand all members be physically present in the chamber to conduct business; forcing roll-call votes; and boycotting the Judiciary Committee vote to force the majority party to break Senate rules to advance the nominee. Fortunately, while those delay tactics could slow down the confirmation by a matter of hours or even days, it cannot block it.

The Democratic Party has a short window to make this happen. If they delay and wait, should the Democrats lose just one seat in the November elections (something that will no doubt happen) approving a Biden nominee will be virtually impossible. So Biden must act now, and his party must support that nominee 100 percent. Otherwise, it will be much worse than just another broken campaign promise. It will be widely viewed as a total betrayal, yet another time the Democratic Party failed its most loyal constituency, Black America.

No Matter the Vote, cont'd.

the necessary votes needed to make the pending bills the law of the land. We must now register and re-register every person capable, of voting age, for the midterm elections which will take place this November 2022. We must check existing voter rolls for the names of all those who have been or are being "purged" for whatever reason. We must find and re-register those individuals so that they can be in good standing to vote in November. We must conduct election drills just as Dr. King and those in the Civil Rights demonstrations prepared for each march before they went out to be attacked by dogs and high powered water hoses.

We must establish committees to look at and examine those persons seeking to run for office at all levels and test whether they have campaign

proposals that would weaken both elections and tamper with the people who handle such elections. This would include laws against election workers, voting opportunities at the local and state level as well as a national commitment to ensure that those elected to the House and Senate will maintain the control of those bodies to meet our goals.

We can't wait to study the new electoral districts; we can't wait to find the right people to run for office or to start the fund raising that will be necessary to change the projected Republican outcome for November 2022. Now is the time to start both here and with our families, friends and neighbors across this country. We must prove that no laws can stop an idea whose time has come with the people the laws were intended to serve.

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