



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting via videoconferencing on April 19, 2022, during which the CCAC made recommendations for the reverse candidate designs for the 2023 American Women Quarter program. The obverse of the American Women Quarters will continue to feature Laura Gardin Fraser's profile of George Washington.

As per *Public Law 116-330*, the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary) is required to issue up to five quarter dollars each year emblematic of prominent American women starting in 2022 through 2025. The women to be featured on these quarters are selected in accordance with a process approved by the Secretary that includes consultation with the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative (SAWHI), the National Women's History Museum, and the Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

The first reverse portfolio that the CCAC reviewed for 2023 honors Ms. Bessie Coleman, the first African American and first Native American woman pilot, as well as the first African American to earn an international pilot's license. Her determination and strong will continues to inspire people today. The CCAC was joined by Ms. Coleman's great niece, Ms. Gigi Coleman, who shared with the CCAC that Ms. Bessie Coleman earned her international pilot license two years before another famous American, Ms. Amelia Earhart. Following a very captivating discussion, the Committee recommended design **BC-R-04A**, noteworthy for the inclusion of the inscription "6.15.1921," the date Ms. Coleman received her pilot's license. CCAC members commented that the inclusion of this date is so important to Ms. Coleman's history. Ms. Gigi Coleman applauded this design, which received a score of 30 out of a maximum of 33.

The second reverse portfolio reviewed for 2023 was that honoring the internationally recognized first lady, author, reformer, and leader, Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt. Appointed by President Truman to the United Nations General Assembly, Ms. Roosevelt was reappointed to the United Nations Delegation by President Kennedy and served as the chair for the President's Commission on the Status of Women. The CCAC was joined by Mr. Christopher Roosevelt, Esq. (grandson) and Ms. Nancy Roosevelt Ireland (granddaughter). After hearing fond memories from Mr. Roosevelt about his grandmother, Committee members offered their individual experiences related to the First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her family. In an exceptional appreciation of design **ER-R-02A**, depicting a portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt with the scales of justice against a backdrop representing the globe and symbolizing her work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CCAC recommended this design unanimously by a voice vote. The grandchildren of Ms. Roosevelt also prefer this reverse design.

The third reverse portfolio honored Ms. Jovita Idar, a famous Mexican American journalist, activist, teacher, and suffragist, who devoted her life to fighting against segregation and injustice and who believed education was the foundation for a better future. Ms. Elizabeth Lopez, and Ms. Martha Aki, great nieces of Jovita Idar, joined the CCAC during the discussion of these designs. While the candidate designs prompted a lengthy discussion with a wealth of comments from the Committee, reverse design **JI-R-08**, received the highest score with 26 out of a maximum of 33. CCAC members shared comments that from their experience and expertise, this design had the potential to receive the honor of coin of the year due to the uniqueness of the design, especially for a circulating coin. Design **JI-R-08** portrays Ms. Idar with her hands clasped, and on her dress are the names of the newspapers for which she wrote. The text also includes her great accomplishments in life along with the required inscriptions.

Ms. Edith Kanaka'ole was the fourth woman recognized. She was famous as an Indigenous Hawaiian composer, chanter, dancer, teacher, and entertainer. Her mo'olelo, or stories, served to rescue aspects of Hawaiian history, customs, and traditions. The CCAC was joined by Ms. Huihui Kanahale-Mossman, the granddaughter of Ms. Kanaka'ole, who expressed her appreciation of this honor for her family. Both the family and the CCAC wholeheartedly endorsed reverse design **EK-R-01**, which portrays Ms. Kanaka'ole with her hair and lei po'o morphing into a Hawaiian landscape, illustrating the integration of Kanaka'ole's work with the preservation of the land and culture. CCAC members remarked that the inclusion of the inscription "25C" instead of the classical "quarter dollar" inscription enhances the beauty and novelty of this design. The CCAC made a motion recommending the Mint reduce the size of the cent mark. This design garnered the maximum score of 33.

The fifth reverse design portfolio for 2023 honored Maria Tallchief, who was widely considered the first American prima ballerina. She broke barriers as a Native American ballerina, exhibiting strength and resilience both on and off the stage. Ms. Elise Paschen, daughter of Ms. Tallchief, joined the CCAC during the discussion of these candidate designs. Reverse design **MTQ-R-04**, which includes the inscription "AMERICA'S PRIMA BALLERINA", received a range of complementary comments from CCAC members, including "elegant," "symmetry," "balance," and "extraordinary in strength and beauty." The family prefers this design, and it was also the preference of reviewers at the SAWHI and the National Women's History Museum. This design received 30 out of the maximum 33 points by members of the CCAC.

It was an honor for the Committee to make recommendations from such a phenomenal range of designs for this historic series recognizing American women. On behalf of the CCAC, we are thankful to participate in the process of recommending designs that will be discussed and appreciated by Americans for years to come.

Sincerely,



Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH  
Chair