



Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s book, “Lovely One,” made the New York Times’ bestseller list. JACQUELYN MARTIN/POOL VIA REUTERS FILE

Reports reveal justices’ earnings from books

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson made more than \$2 million last year for her best-selling memoir, according to the latest round of financial disclosure reports for the justices which became public June 17.

Jackson’s book, “Lovely One,” made the New York Times’ bestseller list when it came out last year.

That’s much more than the \$250,000 in royalties Justice Neil Gorsuch reported earning last year for a book on the law he co-authored with a former clerk.

But Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett could report eye-popping figures in the future for her forthcoming memoir, which reportedly earned a \$2 million advance.

Barrett’s book, “Listening to the Law: Reflections on the Court and Constitution,” is coming out in September.

The annual disclosure reports cover the preceding year of financial activity.

As is his usual practice, Justice Samuel Alito received a 90-day extension to file his annual report.

Jackson, in last year’s report, disclosed she’d initially received an

\$893,750 advance for “Lovely One.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor continues to receive royalties – \$73,944 last year – from children’s books she’s written. And she received a \$60,000 advance from Penguin Random House for “Just Shine,” another children’s book to be published in September.

In May, multiple justices recused themselves from deciding whether to accept an appeal involving alleged plagiarism in books published by Penguin Random House. That meant there were not enough justices to consider the appeal, which left in place a lower court’s ruling dismissing the lawsuit.

In addition to income from their writings, several justices reported outside earnings from teaching.

- Barrett and Justice Brett Kavanaugh each received \$31,815 from Notre Dame Law School.
- Gorsuch received \$30,379.91 from George Mason University.

Travel the justices reported, without detailing their cost, included:

- Trip to Ireland for Chief Justice John Roberts, where he owns a share in a cottage, to teach a class on the Supreme Court.
- Trips to Panama, Switzerland, Austria, Hawaii and other states for Sotomayor for events.

Karen Read found not guilty of murder charge

Karissa Waddick
and N’dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

A Massachusetts jury found Karen Read not guilty of the most serious charges and guilty on a lesser charge related to the 2022 death of her Boston police officer boyfriend John O’Keefe, ending a weekslong trial that has drawn intense attention from true crime fans across the country.

The jury convicted Read of operating a vehicle under the influence but not on charges of second-degree murder and leaving the scene of a collision resulting in death. Read was sentenced to one year of probation.

Prosecutors accused Read of backing into O’Keefe with her Lexus SUV in a drunken rage and leaving him to die in the snow after a night out drinking with friends in January 2022.

Her defense team claimed she was framed for O’Keefe’s death by officers who beat O’Keefe, let a dog attack him, threw him in the snow and then purposefully botched the investigation.

As the verdict was announced, Read smiled and embraced her defense team. Outside, supporters chanted “Karen is free.”

“I could not be standing here without these amazing supporters who have supported me and my team financially and more importantly emotionally for almost four years,” Read told the crowd.

Friends of O’Keefe called the jury’s decision “a devastating miscarriage of justice,” in a statement released to USA TODAY.

“Today, our hearts are with John and the entire O’Keefe family. They have suffered through so much and deserved better from our justice system,” said the statement from Jennifer McCabe, Matthew McCabe, Chris Albert, Julie Albert, Colin Albert, Nicole Albert, Brian Albert, Kerry Roberts and Curt Roberts.

“While we may have more to say in the future, today we mourn with John’s

family and lament the cruel reality that this prosecution was infected by lies and conspiracy theories spread by Karen Read, her defense team, and some in the media.”

The verdict comes nearly a year after Read’s first trial ended in a hung jury.

Interest in the case has swept the country since then, spurring an array of true crime podcasts, movies and television shows.

Through more than seven weeks of testimony, jurors heard from myriad witnesses and experts who testified about the events leading up to O’Keefe’s death, evidence found at the crime scene and irregularities in the investigation.

One of the biggest bombshells came near the beginning of the trial, when a friend of O’Keefe’s alleged that Read said, “I hit him, I hit him, I hit him,” shortly after finding his body beneath a pile of snow. Prosecutors paired the testimony with video clips of Read in which she talked about being inebriated behind the wheel and questioned whether she could have “clipped” O’Keefe.

Forensic scientists presented jurors with analysis of phone and vehicle data showing Read’s SUV moving 87 feet in reverse at about the same time O’Keefe’s phone locked for the last time. They showed pictures of tiny red bits of plastic stuck in the fabric of O’Keefe’s sweatshirt, and pieces of Read’s taillight near where his body was found.

Read’s defense team at every turn sought to sow doubt in the credibility of the prosecution’s witnesses and the integrity of the investigation into O’Keefe’s death.

They alleged that the lead detective in O’Keefe’s case, former Massachusetts State Trooper Michael Proctor, was biased against Read, citing crude text messages he sent to friends.

One defense expert suggested that O’Keefe’s injuries were caused by a dog, backing up the defense’s theory that O’Keefe was beaten inside the home of a fellow officer, attacked by his dog and discarded outside during a blizzard.

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