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Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (LACDL) recognizes Bryan Stevenson with Professor Lucy McGough Juvenile Justice Award

Baton Rouge, La. (January 9, 2015) - The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (LACDL) honored Bryan Stevenson, Montgomery, Al., with the 2014 Professor Lucy McGough Juvenile Justice Award during the 29th Annual Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Awards Banquet on December 12, 2014 at the Roosevelt Hotel, located at 123 Baronne St., New Orleans, La.

Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Al., and a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer dedicated to helping the impoverished, the incarcerated and the condemned. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards including the ACLU National Medal Of Liberty, the National Public Interest Lawyer of the Year Award, the NAACP Ming Award for Advocacy, the Gruber Prize for International Justice and the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government, has been awarded 15 honorary doctorate degrees and is also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

When describing Stevenson, attorney Carol Kolinchak, New Orleans, La., recipient of the 2011 Professor Lucy McGough Juvenile Justice Award, referenced author John Grisham's description of Stevenson's work, stating that "not since Atticus Finch has a fearless and committed lawyer made such a difference in the American South."

This award honors those who have been involved with juvenile justice issues that affect our justice system daily. Juvenile justice has been elevated to its rightful place as an equal part of the criminal justice system by the hard work and dedication of attorneys like Stevenson.

"Through the tireless efforts of Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), Robert Caston became the very first person in the country to actually obtain release after the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Graham v. Florida*," said Kolinchak. "Mr. Caston was 16 years old when he was sentenced to life without parole and he served 43 years at Angola. Since then, Bryan and the EJI staff have continued to keep Graham's promise of a meaningful opportunity for release in Louisiana."

To learn more about the Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Awards Banquet and other award recipients, please visit www.lacdl.org/tatebanquet. To learn more about LACDL awards, please visit www.lacdl.org/lacdlawards.

About LACDL

LACDL was formed by a group of criminal defense lawyers in 1985. Almost three decades later and with more than 600 members throughout Louisiana, it remains a vital cornerstone of support. Membership in LACDL means joining your fellow defenders in the struggle for liberty, individual rights, the basic principle of due process and the fundamental right to a fair trial. LACDL affords its members the opportunity to network with peers who share in the passion to protect individual rights and those of the accused.

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