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**CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER TO RECEIVE
CHAMPION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD AT
BPI'S 2014 ANNUAL DINNER**

Equal Justice Initiative Founder Bryan Stevenson Will Deliver Keynote Address

CHICAGO (April, 2014) - **Business and Professional People for the Public Interest** (BPI) is pleased to announce that the **Children and Family Justice Center** (CFJC) at the Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern University School of Law will be honored with a "Champion of the Public Interest Award" at BPI's Annual Dinner on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park. This annual award recognizes exceptional contributions to the public interest by individuals and organizations across a broad range of endeavors working to create a more just society.

"It's a privilege to recognize the work of the Children and Family Justice Center at this year's Dinner," says BPI Executive Director Hoy McConnell. "The Center's dedication to providing effective representation for children and adolescents involved in the justice system is a powerful example of the vital role institutions of higher learning can play in advocacy of the public interest."

"The Children and Family Justice Center is honored to receive the Champion of the Public Interest award. We are dedicated to advancing the doctrine that youth matters, and that our children deserve access to a fair and equal justice system," says Julie Biehl, director of the CFJC.

BPI's 2014 Annual Dinner will feature Keynote Speaker Bryan Stevenson, the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala. Mr. Stevenson is hailed as a riveting speaker, with his TED Talk and *The Colbert Report* appearances garnering a wide audience for his work challenging poverty and racial discrimination in the criminal justice system.

Mr. Stevenson and Chicago community leader Crystal Palmer will also receive BPI's Champion of the Public Interest Award.

The BPI Annual Dinner generates funds used to support the organization's efforts in housing and community development, public education, and political reform. Individual tickets are \$400 and tables of ten are \$5,000. For additional information on the event and to register, visit bpichicago.org.

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

BPI is a public interest law and policy center that for 45 years has worked to create a more just society. BPI strives to resolve compelling issues of social justice and quality of life in the Chicago

region by addressing the challenges of urban poverty, improving Chicago's public schools, building vital communities, increasing affordable housing, and promoting open and honest government in Illinois. BPI is a recipient of the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.
<http://bpichicago.org>

Children and Family Justice Center

Founded in 1992, the Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC) is a comprehensive children's law office and part of the Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern University School of Law. At the CFJC, attorneys and law students work together to promote justice for children, adolescents, and their families through direct legal representation, policy advocacy, and law reform. The CFJC is a recipient of the 2013 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.
<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/>

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