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An Evening with Human Rights Lawyer Bryan Stevenson
Hosted by B’nai Jeshurun and the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Wednesday, October 10 at 7 p.m.

NEW YORK (October 3, 2018) – The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan’s Joseph Stern Center for Social Responsibility and B’nai Jeshurun are pleased to host Bryan Stevenson on Wednesday, October 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at B’nai Jeshurun, 257 W. 88th St. The evening will be an engaging and personal discussion with one of the country’s most visionary legal thinkers and social justice advocates. Stevenson will share his perspectives on the American justice system and the social, racial, and economic divides currently affecting our nation. Tickets are $10 for JCC and B’nai Jeshurun members and $18 for the public. Visit jccmanhattan.org/stevenson for more information and to purchase tickets, which are selling quickly.

“Far too many children, people of color, and the mentally ill are subjected to excessive and unfair prison sentences, without regard to their age, severity of their crimes, and family background,” said Eve Landau, director of The Joseph Stern Center for Social Responsibility. “Mr. Stevenson is doing incredible work to fix America’s broken justice system, and we are so pleased to bring him to our community, learn from him, and begin to help effect change in this arena, too.”

“Jewish communities have a distinct role to play in addressing both historical and contemporary manifestations of racism in this country,” said Rabbi Shuli Passow, B’nai Jeshurun’s director of community engagement. “Mr. Stevenson and his work have inspired many of us to take action on criminal justice reform, and we hope this evening will engage more people in the change efforts on this important issue.”

Stevenson is a leader in the movement against mass incarceration in the United States and the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative based in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges, including a United State Supreme Court case that ruled mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. Stevenson and his staff have also won reversals, relief, or release for more than 125 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and have initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge the legacy of racial inequality in America. He recently spearheaded the opening of the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which memorializes victims of lynching and white supremacy.

Stevenson is the recipient of numerous awards honoring him for his work fighting poverty and racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. He has also received 29 honorary doctoral degrees, including those from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Oxford universities. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed New York Times best-seller, “Just Mercy,” which Time
magazine named one of the 10 best nonfiction books of 2014. He also earned the Carnegie Medal by the American Library Association for the best nonfiction book of 2014 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award.

About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at jccmanhattan.org.

About B’nai Jeshurun
B’nai Jeshurun (BJ) is a nonaffiliated Jewish synagogue community that strives to experience God’s presence by praying, studying, teaching, volunteering, celebrating, and caring for each other and the world. BJ's spiritual leaders and more than 1,700 member families share a vision of a diverse, dynamic and welcoming community, with a commitment to honoring tradition while re-imagining and innovating practices and programs to create a vibrant Jewish life for the 21st century. Drawing inspiration from the great teachers of our tradition, who embodied and articulated some of Judaism’s deepest and most cherished values, our rabbis strive to address the challenges of our time in the search for justice, understanding, and wholeness. We believe that God empowers each person to change his or her individual reality, and in the power of community to change the world. We welcome you to study, pray, and serve with us. Learn more at www.bj.org.

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