

THERE REMAIN SERIOUS CHALLENGES  
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
THAT REQUIRE PERSISTENCE AND INCREASED  
AWARENESS TO CONFRONT

Bryan Stevenson



2014  
recipient of the  
ALBA/Puffin  
Award for  
Human Rights Activism



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES

press release

**EPK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Marina Garde**  
**212-674-5398**  
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**www.alba-valb.org**

**March 13, 2014**

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## **Bryan Stevenson receives the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism**

New York — On Sunday, April 27, 2014, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) will present the fourth ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism to Bryan Stevenson, the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative.

Based in Montgomery, Alabama, Mr. Stevenson has dedicated his adult life to addressing poverty and challenging racial discrimination, particularly in the U.S. criminal justice system. A determined and dedicated advocate for restorative justice, Mr. Stevenson is a compassionate humanist fully committed to addressing the greatest civil rights challenges of our times.

The \$100,000 ALBA/Puffin Award is part of a program connecting the inspiring legacy of the International Brigades, the 40,000 volunteers who helped fight fascism during the Spanish Civil War, to international activist causes of today and is one of the largest human rights awards in the world.

Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzón received the first ALBA/Puffin Award in May 2011. Other recipients include Kate Doyle and Fredy Peccerelli, who work to expose human rights violations in Guatemala, and United We Dream, a national network of youth-led immigrant activist organizations that fight for the rights of millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

"The award is designed," said Puffin Foundation President Perry Rosenstein, "to give public recognition, support, and encouragement to individuals or groups whose work has an exceptionally positive impact on the advancement and/or defense of human rights."

Children in adult prisons; prisons and sentencing reform; race and poverty; and the death penalty are the main focus of Bryan Stevenson Organization which has been instrumental in the reversals and reduced sentences in more than 75 death penalty cases.

In a statement issued by the winner of the 2014 ALBA/PUFFIN Award, Bryan Stevenson said:

"I am extremely honored to receive this extraordinary recognition from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. There remain serious challenges in the field of human rights that require persistence and increased awareness to confront. In the United States, mass incarceration and excessive punishment policies have contributed to a history of racial injustice and abuse of the poor and disfavored.

**Award Ceremony – Sunday, April 27th at 2:30pm. Reception to follow.**

The New School/ 66 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street / New York, NY 10011

**BACKGROUND****The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives: [www.alba-valb.org](http://www.alba-valb.org)**

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) is an educational non-profit dedicated to promoting social activism and the defense of human rights. ALBA's work is inspired by the brave American volunteers of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who fought and died fighting fascism in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). ALBA's programs include teacher institutes, exhibitions, publications, cultural programs and an annual award for human rights activism, given in partnership with the Puffin Foundation. Drawing on the ALBA collections in New York University's Tamiment Library, ALBA works to preserve the legacy of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade as an inspiration for present and future generations.

**The Puffin Foundation: [www.puffinfoundation.org](http://www.puffinfoundation.org)**

Since it was founded in 1983, the Puffin Foundation Ltd. has sought to open the doors of artistic expression by providing grants to artists and art organizations that are often excluded from mainstream opportunities due to their race, gender, or social philosophy. The Puffin, a species whose nesting sites were endangered by encroaching civilization, was encouraged to return to its native habitats through the constructive efforts of a concerned citizenry. The Foundation has adopted the name Puffin as a metaphor for how it perceives its mission, which is to ensure that the arts continue to grow and enrich our lives. In so doing it has joined with other concerned groups and individuals toward achieving that goal. The Puffin Foundation is also a long-standing supporter of ALBA's educational mission.

**Bryan Stevenson** is a public-interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He's the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative ([www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)) an Alabama-based group that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system. EJI litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders, people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct. EJI works with communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment. EJI also prepares reports, newsletters, and manuals to assist advocates and policymakers in the critically important work of reforming the administration of criminal justice.

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# **Bryan Stevenson BIO**

## **BRYAN A. STEVENSON BIO**

Bryan Stevenson is the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama and also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law. He is widely acclaimed as one of the most effective public service lawyers in America. A graduate of both the Harvard Law School, where he was awarded the Harvard Fellowship in Public Interest Law, and of the Harvard School of Government, where he was awarded the Kennedy Fellowship in Criminal Justice, Mr. Stevenson has devoted his life to helping disadvantaged people in the deep south. He and his staff have been largely responsible for reversals or reduced sentences in over 65 death penalty cases.

In 1985 Mr. Stevenson joined the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia as a staff attorney. From 1989-1995, he represented capital defendants as the Executive Director of the Alabama Capital Representation Resource Center. As Executive Director of EJI, Mr. Stevenson represents indigent defendants, death row prisoners and juveniles who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system. Mr. Stevenson is committed to informing policymakers in the critically important work of reforming the administration of criminal justice, and he assists counsel representing death row inmates by providing training materials and consultation.

Mr. Stevenson's work on behalf of condemned prisoners has attracted national recognition and acclaim from the Washington Post, the New York Times, People Magazine, LIFE Magazine and several national television programs including Nightline and 60 Minutes, which featured a case where he and his staff achieved the release of a death row prisoner who spent six years on death row for a crime he did not commit.

In 1995, Mr. Stevenson was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship Award for his work. He has also received many other national honors. In 1989, he received the Reebok Human Rights Award along with the Chinese student leaders at the Tiananmen Square massacre. In 1991, he received the National Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union after he was nominated by United States Supreme Court Justice John Stevens. Mr. Stevenson was named the 1996 Public Interest Lawyer of the Year by the National Association of Public Interest Lawyers. In 1999, he was awarded the Gleitsman Foundation's National Citizen Activist Award and in 2000, he received the Olaf Palme Prize in Stockholm, Sweden for international human rights. The American Bar Association has honored Mr. Stevenson with its John Minor Public Service and Professionalism Award. In 2002, he received the Alabama State Bar Commissioners Award. In 2003, the SALT Human Rights Award was presented to Mr. Stevenson by The Society of American Law Teachers. In 2004, he received the Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers and also the Lawyer for the People Award from the National Lawyers Guild. In 2006 New York University presented Mr. Stevenson with its Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2008, Mr. Stevenson received the Katharine & George Alexander Law Prize from Santa Clara University School of Law. In 2009, Mr. Stevenson won the Gruber Foundation International Justice Prize. In 2010, Mr. Stevenson was presented with the NAACP William Robert Ming Advocacy Award and the National Public Service Award from Stanford University Law School. In 2011, Mr. Stevenson was awarded the National Legal Aid & Defender Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award and the Roosevelt Institute Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom from Fear Award. In 2012, Mr. Stevenson received the American Psychiatric Association Human Rights Award, the Oliver Robinson Foundation Lawyer of the Year Award, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Fred L. Shuttleworth Award, the Houston Peace and Justice Center

National Peacemaker Award, and the Smithsonian Magazine American Ingenuity Award in Social Progress. In 2013, Mr. Stevenson was inducted into the Legal Guardian Room, National Voting Civil Rights Museum and Institute.

Mr. Stevenson has additionally received honorary degrees from Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Washington University, Eastern University, City University of New York School of Law, Metropolitan College of New York, The Bank Street College of Education, Bard College, Villanova University, Santa Clara University School of Law, Fairfield University, the University of San Francisco and Loyola University.



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## **Past Laureates**





### ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism

#### Past Awards:

First ALBA-Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism (2011): **Laureate Judge Baltasar Garzón**

Second ALBA-Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism (2012): **Kate Doyle and Freddy Peccerelli**

Third ALBA-Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism (2013): **United We Dream**

#### Past Laureates:

**Judge Baltasar Garzón** is a distinguished Spanish jurist admired throughout the world for his tireless pursuit of human rights violators, wherever they are: from ordering the arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet to investigating the most important criminal cases in Spain, or considering prosecution for torture conducted by US officials.

**Kate Doyle**, Senior Analyst of U.S. policy in Latin America at the National Security Archive, is a determined and creative researcher-activist. Doyle has spent twenty years working tirelessly with Latin American human rights organizations and truth commissions — in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru— to obtain the declassification of U.S. government archives in support of their investigations.

**Fredy Peccerelli** is an innovative forensic anthropologist whose work has been instrumental to the first-ever conviction of Guatemalan military forces for crimes against humanity. As founding director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), Peccerelli leads a team that, over the past fifteen years, has exhumed hundreds of mass graves filled with victims of Guatemala's Internal Conflict.

**United We Dream (UWD)** is a national network of youth-led immigrant activist organizations that fight for the rights of millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

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## **TV - Radio Script**

<p><b>Bryan Stevenson receives the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism</b></p>	
	<p>Bryan Stevenson, founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, is the winner of the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism.</p> <p>Stevenson is a public-interest lawyer who founded in 1995 the Equal Justice Initiative, a private, nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment by the legal system.</p> <p>Children in adult prisons; prison and sentencing reform; race and poverty; and the death penalty are the main focus of Bryan Stevenson's organization, which has been instrumental in reversals and reduced sentences in more than 75 death penalty cases.</p> <p>The Equal Justice Initiative has also developed educational programs to raise public awareness about the history of racial bias in the United States and has also worked with policymakers in the critically important work of reforming the administration of criminal justice.</p>

<p><b>Bryan Stevenson receives the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism</b></p>	
	<p>The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) and the Puffin Foundation are not the first to recognize Stevenson for his groundbreaking work. His awards include a MacArthur Fellowship, the Reebok Human Rights Award, the ACLU National Medal of Liberty, the American Bar Association Wisdom Award, the Thurgood Marshall Medal of Justice, the Olof Palme Prize, the Gruber Prize for Justice, and, most recently, the 2013 Brennan Legacy Award.</p> <p>The \$100,000 ALBA/Puffin Award is part of a program connecting the inspiring legacy of the International Brigades, the 40,000 volunteers who helped fight fascism during the Spanish Civil War, to international activist causes of today and is one of the largest human rights awards in the world.</p> <p>Puffin Foundation President Perry Rosenstein said regarding the award...</p> <p>"The award is designed to give public recognition, support, and encouragement to individuals or groups whose work has an exceptionally positive impact on the advancement and/or defense of human rights".</p> <p>In a statement issued by the winner of the 2014 ALBA/PUFFIN award, Bryan Stevenson said...</p> <p>I am extremely honored to receive this extraordinary recognition from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives...</p>

<b>Bryan Stevenson receives the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism</b>	
	<p>In the United States, mass incarceration and excessive punishment policies have contributed to a history of racial injustice and abuse of the poor and disfavored.</p> <p>Bryan Stevenson will accept the award in person during ALBA's 78<sup>th</sup> annual celebration at the auditorium of the New School in New York City on Sunday, April 27.</p>





Bryan Stevenson 2 Equal Justice Initiative Archive copy.jpg







Bryan Stevenson 15Equal Justice Initiative Archive copy.jpg

