

Stockton's Constitution Day to Feature Speech by Bryan Stevenson on Sept. 16

Law Professor and Author Noted for Fight on Behalf of Minorities and Poor
in Criminal Justice System

For Immediate Release; Photo attached; Coverage invited

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Galloway, NJ – Constitution Day at Stockton University on **Wednesday, Sept. 16**, will feature a keynote speech by Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Ala. Stevenson is one of the most acclaimed and respected lawyers in the nation, recognized for his fight against bias in the criminal justice system.

Stevenson, a professor at New York University School of Law, has helped secure relief for dozens of prisoners on death row. After his speech at the 2012 TED conference in California, attendees raised over \$1 million to fund his campaign to end the practice of incarcerating children in adult prisons.

Stevenson's book, "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," was named one of the "10 Best Books of Nonfiction" for 2014 by Time magazine.

Stevenson will speak on "Racial Justice and the Constitution" in the Campus Center Event Room – doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are not required, but seating is limited. The speech will also be simulcast in the adjacent Campus Center Theatre to provide additional seating.

Constitution Day kicks off a series of events at Stockton that will include voter registration efforts, a trip to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Oct. 24, and workshops on economic inequality, the rights of those formerly incarcerated, the history of the LGBT movement and the "politics of water," as to who controls access to water.

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In addition, attorney and journalist Terry Mutchler will discuss her memoir, “Under this Beautiful Dome: A Senator, A Journalist, and the Politics of Gay Love in America,” on Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. in Room L112. The book tells of Mutchler’s secret five-year relationship with Penny Stevens, an Illinois state senator who helped mentor Barack Obama.

All these activities are sponsored by Stockton’s Political Engagement Project/American Democracy Project, the Office of Service-Learning, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Development, Alumni Affairs and the University Foundation. For more information, visit Stockton.edu/pep.

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