



**Bryan Stevenson**

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, incarcerated and 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 and his staff have successfully won reversals, relief and release from prison for more than 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger.

Stevenson has initiated new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites including, The Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias. Stevenson's work has earned him numerous awards including more than 40 honorary doctorates, the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Prize and the ABA Medal, the American Bar Association's highest honor. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard's School of Government and the author of the award-winning *New York Times* bestseller "Just Mercy," which was recently adapted as a major motion picture.

Stevenson resides in Montgomery, Alabama, where he continues to challenge inequality in America.