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The Delaware Historical Society's 2015 Delaware History Makers Award to Recognize The Honorable Michael N. Castle and Noted Civil Rights Attorney Bryan Stevenson

Ninth Annual Delaware History Makers Award Dinner to be held on September 15, 2015

Wilmington, DE —The Delaware Historical Society has chosen The Honorable Michael N. Castle and noted civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson as the 2015 Delaware History Makers Award honorees. The well-respected and long-time Delaware political leader, Michael N. Castle, a native of Wilmington, served as the Governor of Delaware for two terms and as U.S. Congressman for nine terms. Bryan Stevenson, a native of Milton, is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*. Both honorees exemplify the 2015 Delaware History Makers Award theme of *Public Service and Servant Leadership*. The award ceremony and dinner will take place on September 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE.

Since 2007, the History Makers Award has recognized Delawareans who have made significant and lasting contributions to the quality of life in Delaware, our nation, or the world. Past honorees include Ellen Kullman, Fr. Roberto Balducelli, Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson, Dr. Carol Hoffecker, Harold "Tubby" Raymond, Ken Burns, former Governor Pete du Pont, Vice President Joe Biden, Toni Young, and Ed and Peggy Woolard.

Proceeds from the event support the Delaware Historical Society's award-winning educational programs that take place year-round throughout the state.

For tickets, sponsorship details and additional information, visit dehistory.org/history-makers, deinfo@dehistory.org or 302-655-7161.

About The Honorable Michael N. Castle:

The Hon. Michael N. Castle, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, served as governor of Delaware for two terms (1985-1992), a U.S. Congressman for nine terms (1993-2011), a former Lieutenant Governor, Deputy Attorney General, and a state senator. Mr. Castle is well-known for working across party lines and building bridges to arrive at pragmatic, bipartisan solutions to critical issues facing individuals and government leaders today. Mr. Castle is a founder of The Main Street Partnership, a group that was formed by moderate and conservative Republicans following the 1994 elections as a discussion group whose members have frequently worked to create a more proactive, centrist character to U.S. politics. Castle is a partner in the law firm DLA Piper.

About Bryan Stevenson:

A Milton, Delaware native, Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the 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, the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Mr. Stevenson has successfully argued several cases before the United States Supreme Court and recently won an historic ruling banning mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children aged 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards including the ABA Wisdom Award for Public Service, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the Olaf Palme International Prize, the ACLU National Medal of Liberty, the National Public Interest Lawyer of the Year Award, the Gruber Prize for International Justice and the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the Harvard School of Government and is also a professor at the New York University School of Law. His critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, has been awarded several honors including a 2015 NAACP Image Award.

About the Delaware Historical Society:

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an "American Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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