

NACDL FOUNDATION FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PRESENTS

JUSTICE FOR ALL.

JUSTICE NOW.

VIRTUAL GALA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF CRIMINAL
DEFENSE LAWYERS



NACDL
FOUNDATION FOR
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE



Jason Flom
 Founder and CEO | LAVA



In honor of the courageous and selfless attorneys of NACDL who are doing the heavy lifting every day

TONIGHT'S EVENT

VIP RECEPTION WITH ILLUSIONIST DIGITAL DECEPTION

Sponsors and their Guests

SILENT AUCTION

Auction closes at 10:00pm (ET)

EVENING PROGRAM

Start time 7:05pm (ET)

HONORING

Bryan Stevenson

Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative

NACDL Lifetime Achievement Award

Alice Marie Johnson

CEO of Taking Action for Good Foundation

Author, advocate, and former federal inmate is a renowned leader, speaker, and luminary in the criminal justice reform movement

Champion of Justice Award - Community Advocacy

SPECIAL GUEST

Lil Baby

Grammy-nominated rapper, singer and songwriter

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Steven Page

Solo artist and former lead singer of Barenaked Ladies

VIRTUAL TABLE SESSIONS

Designated for Sponsors and their Guests

AFTERPARTY

DJ Chill

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A MESSAGE FROM

LISA WAYNE

PRESIDENT, NACDL FOUNDATION FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Justice for All. Justice Now. Across the country people are demanding real change. The country's criminal legal system remains unjust at every stage, one that perpetuates systemic racism, economic disparity, and fuels overcriminalization and mass incarceration. The NACDL Foundation (NFCJ) exists to confront these injustices and today it is doing so at a level that is unprecedented. And it is doing so because of

the support of so many individuals and entities who are tired of waiting for justice. On behalf of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice, welcome to tonight's Foundation Gala. As the President of the NFCJ and a Past President of NACDL, I want to thank you for the important support that you provide to the Foundation and the work it makes possible at NACDL.

At this critical time in American history, when the COVID-19 pandemic and social upheaval have converged to expose systemic injustices there is an urgent need to act and an unprecedented opportunity to capture the energy of the moment to pursue long overdue reforms. NACDL and the NFCJ have long championed reform efforts to address the consequences of decades of ill-advised criminal justice policy from pretrial justice, including fees and fines, bail, and discovery reform, all the way through reentry and the restoration of rights. But just since the advent of the pandemic, the Foundation has launched an array of new initiatives to meet the moment. The *Return to Freedom Project* now supports no less than five separate programs to secure the release of

long-serving prisoners through federal and local compassionate release programs, clemency initiatives, and other relief mechanisms. Already scores of individuals who were at risk of serious illness or death have been restored to freedom. And as the nation clamors for greater law enforcement transparency, the NFCJ will support a *Law Enforcement Accountability Database Project* that will equip defenders with an invaluable tool to track law enforcement misconduct. These and so many other cutting-edge efforts in pursuit of justice are made possible through your generous and ongoing support.

Tonight, to recognize the capacity of the human spirit to confront and prevail over injustice, the NFCJ and NACDL will honor two remarkable individuals. Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a crusader for justice, especially for youth, and an eloquent voice in calling for the nation to confront the legacy of slavery, segregation, and racism will receive NACDL's Lifetime Achievement Award. The NFCJ will also honor Alice Marie Johnson, who emerged from 21 years of imprisonment for a non-violent offense to establish the Taking Action for Good Foundation to promote restorative justice and other criminal justice reforms.

Adding to the festivities, the NFCJ is proud to welcome appearances by Grammy-nominated rapper, singer and songwriter Lil Baby and Steven Page, award winning musician, co-founder and former lead singer of Barenaked Ladies.

This event should be fun, entertaining, but above all it should be inspiring. Now more than ever, there is much great work to do. But with your support for the NFCJ, we can and will do it. We will get to that day when Justice for All and Justice Now is a reality and not merely an aspiration.

A MESSAGE FROM

CHRIS ADAMS

NACDL PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2020 NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice (Virtual) Gala. We all fervently wish that we could gather in person for this annual commitment to purge injustice from the criminal legal system, but safe distancing in the face of a raging virus is prudent and patriotic. And perseverance in the face of adversity is essential.

As NACDL's President and a Trustee of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice, I could not be prouder to lead the defense bar at a time when the nation's commitment to so many core values and constitutional principles is tested in so many ways. The virus presents an existential threat to all humans, but that threat is magnified for those whose rights must be safeguarded in the criminal process and whose very survival is at risk when caged in the close confines of a jail or prison. The NACDL Foundation provides the vital support that enables the criminal defense bar to champion those rights and fight for the dignity, humanity, and lives of those who otherwise would stand alone against the power of the state. For your support of this event, especially at this perilous time, I am extremely grateful to all for your continued support of the groundbreaking efforts made possible by NACDL's Foundation for Criminal Justice.

With your support, I pledge that NACDL will fulfill its mission in pursuit of a more rational and humane criminal justice system and to confront and eliminate systemic racism. We will champion reforms that will end mandatory minimums, use prison as the punishment of last resort, reverse overcriminalization, end the vindictive application of the trial

penalty, promote transparency in law enforcement, ensure robust support for public defense in every county in the nation, and once and for all end capital punishment. These are lofty goals that sometimes seem unattainable. But the challenges of the past several months have fueled a growing national awareness of the need to confront racial, economic, and social injustice. This is a time of opportunity as much as it is a time of challenge. And with your continued support of the NACDL Foundation, we will meet the challenge and we will seize the opportunity.

A MESSAGE FROM

NORMAN REIMER



Welcome to the NACDL Foundation's first, and hopefully last, Virtual Gala. The Annual Foundation Gala is not only a reason to celebrate those whose inspirational example inspires the Foundation's work to promote a fair, rational, and humane criminal justice system, but it also helps to generate the funds necessary to make that work possible. So, even in a year of unprecedented challenge, when safe gatherings are not

possible, the show must go on. It must go on because the effort to seek Justice for All and Justice Now cannot be put on the back burner, even during a pandemic. Indeed, the events of the past few months prove that the flaws in the nation's criminal legal system are far worse than many realized and far more pervasive in all realms of society.

But there is no time for handwringing, blame games, or inaction. There is only time to go about the business of fixing the system and righting as many wrongs as we can. And that is precisely what NACDL and the NACDL Foundation are doing. Thanks to the support of so many who have contributed to this event and many others who provide critical support throughout the year, here are just a few of the many projects made possible by the generosity of so many who want Justice for All and Justice Now:

- » **The Return to Freedom Project**, which includes the **DC Compassionate Release Project**, the **State Clemency Project**, the **Federal Compassionate Release Clearinghouse**, the **Virginia Redemption Project**, and the federal **Trial Penalty Clemency Project**

- » Various strategic initiatives to promote **sentencing reform** and ongoing efforts to **oppose overcriminalization**, as well as several projects focusing on **restoration of rights**
- » **Minority fellowships** to promote diversity in the criminal defense bar
- » A major national effort to combat the tyranny of **the trial penalty**, including the publication of *The Trial Penalty: The Sixth Amendment Right to Trial on the Verge of Extinction and How to Save It* and the production of a documentary, *The Vanishing Trial*
- » The **NACDL Fourth Amendment Center**, which provides training, support, and direct litigation assistance for attorneys handling cutting-edge digital search issues
- » The **Law Enforcement Accountability Database Project**, which will provide defense counsel across the country with the tools to track law enforcement misconduct to prevent unjust prosecution and wrongful conviction
- » A full menu of programs across a wide range of issues to safeguard the **Sixth Amendment**, **combat wrongful conviction**, and **elevate standards for the use of forensic science**
- » Sustained support for state reform efforts through the **State Criminal Justice Network** and multiple initiatives through partnerships and collaborations that bridge ideological and political divides in pursuit of criminal justice reform.

Justice for All. Justice Now. Because there is never a time to tolerate injustice.

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BRYAN STEVENSON

NACDL Lifetime Achievement Award

Bryan Stevenson is the Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a human rights organization 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 and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced. Mr. 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. Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination

efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites which opened in 2018, The Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The 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. Mr. Stevenson's work has won him numerous awards including over 40 honorary doctorates, the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Prize and the ABA Medal, the American Bar Association's highest honor. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard 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.



ALICE MARIE JOHNSON

Champion of Justice Award - Community Advocacy

Alice Marie Johnson, CEO of Taking Action for Good Foundation (TAG), author, advocate, and former federal inmate is a renowned leader, speaker, and luminary in the criminal justice reform movement.

Since being granted clemency, Alice has committed her life to helping others and continuing to fight for criminal justice reform for the women and men who are still incarcerated. Through her leadership of TAG, Alice has devoted herself as a force for good, creating a cultural shift for restorative justice. Her story received world-wide attention when Kim Kardashian West advocated for her release from a mandatory life sentence without parole. After over 21 years in federal prison for her first and only conviction in a nonviolent drug case, President Donald J. Trump granted her clemency on June 6, 2018.

Following her clemency, she has since been honored as one of four women designated as a "Women's Right Defender" at the United Nations on International Women's Day as well as a CAOC Advocate for Justice Award in 2019.

Alice has appeared on numerous media outlets advocating for criminal justice reform and has been a featured speaker and panelist at numerous instrumental events and summits.

Alice has been deemed a "catalyst" for the successful passage of the First Step Act; the most significant criminal justice legislation in recent history.

Alice Marie Johnson is a published author with her memoir, *After Life: My Journey from Incarceration to Freedom*, and is a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother living in Chandler, Arizona.



LIL BABY

Special Guest

Dominique Jones, known as Lil Baby, is a Grammy-nominated rapper, singer and songwriter from Atlanta, Georgia. Earlier this year Lil Baby released his second album "My Turn" which went on to be America's biggest 2020 album to date, topping the charts for 5 weeks! In June, he released "The Bigger Picture" in response to the death of George Floyd, which some consider to be the anthem of the summer's Black Lives Matter protests. The song debuted at #3 on the Billboard Hot 100, and all proceeds benefit the National Association of Black Journalists, Breonna Taylor's attorney, the Bail Project, and Black Lives Matter.



STEVEN PAGE

Special Guest

Steven Page's distinctive and powerful voice is among the most instantly recognizable in popular music. A member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame with former bandmates, Barenaked Ladies, Steven Page reunited with the band he co-founded for their induction at the 2018 JUNO Awards – a night capped off by an exhilarating two song performance.

Steven's fifth solo album, *DISCIPLINE: HEAL THYSELF, PT. II*, was released in 2018, followed by tours of the UK, Ireland and the U.S. with bandmates Craig Northey (Odds) and Kevin Fox. In 2019, Steven toured Canada from coast to coast starting in the east with a successful run alongside Symphony New Brunswick and traveled west in May, performing in venues from Quebec to British Columbia. The *Discipline Tour* concluded in autumn 2019, with an extensive tour of the U.S. Northwest, Southeast, Northeast and Texas.

Steven Page had big plans for 2020. The Stratford Festival's production of *Here's What It Takes*, a musical co-written by Steven Page and playwright Daniel MacIvor, was to debut in June. Classical crossover concerts across Canada, including two nights with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in May, were postponed due to Covid-19. Steven has been able to rebound by live streaming weekly ticketed shows via Zoom. Since late April, Steven's LIVE FROM HOME performances, which take place every Saturday at 5pm ET, have allowed him to continue to connect with his fans in the US, Canada, the UK and beyond.

Still the dynamic stage presence he's always been, Steven Page is the consummate entertainer, performing music from both his solo career and his BNL years.

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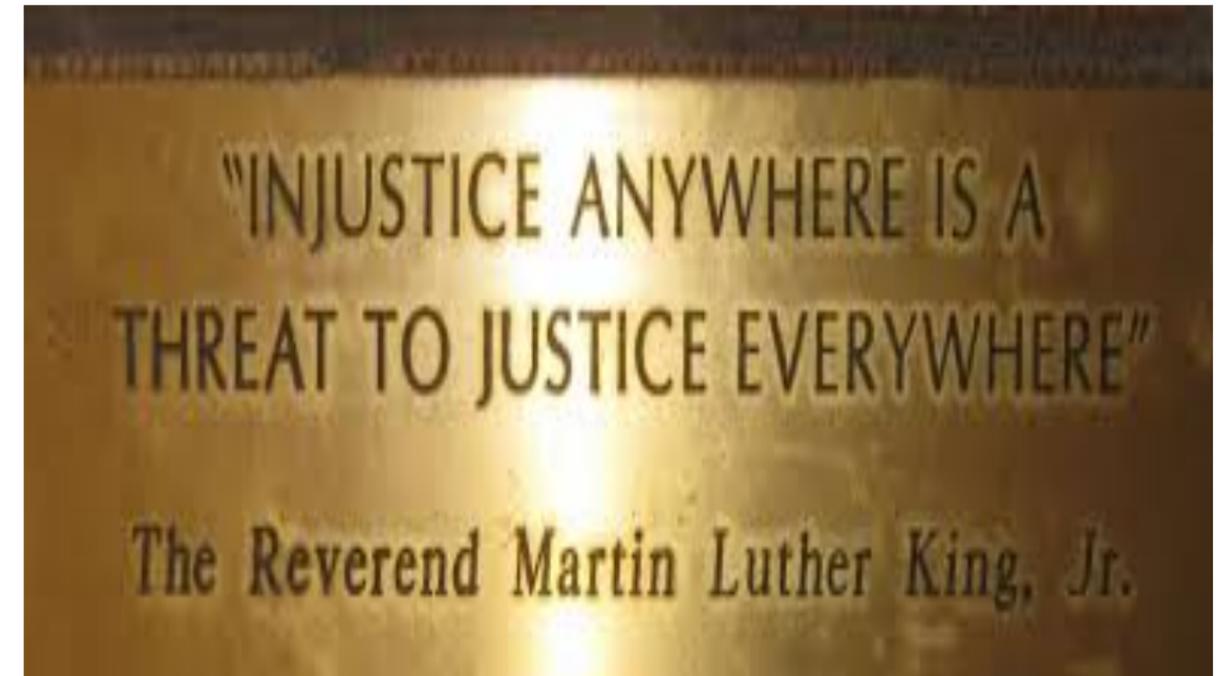
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Kilpatrick Townsend is proud to join NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice in seeking Justice For All.

JUSTICE NOW

Congratulations to Bryan Stevenson and Alice Marie Johnson for their exemplary leadership and unending commitment to raise the call for Justice For All.





Lisa Wayne would like to thank her fellow members of the committee that arranged the NFCJ's first virtual gala:

Clay Braswell, Marissa Elkins, Stephen Ross Johnson, Nellie King, Steven Logan, C. Melissa Owen, Sonya Pfeiffer, Todd Pugh, Cynthia Roseberry, Ted Simon, Jessica Stepan, Deja Vishny, and Daniel Weir.

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Congratulations to
Bryan Stevenson & Alice Marie Johnson
on their well-deserved awards.

Thank you for your endless hard work and unwavering dedication to equal rights under the law.
You represent the very best of our profession and community.

AND...

Congratulations to
Christopher W. Adams
on his installation as new NACDL President!
Best wishes for an extraordinary year.

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We honor and thank NACDL for leading the way on criminal justice reform and for always fighting for individual's Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

NACDL has provided a beacon of hope during these challenging times and will continue to lead the way in the fight for a better and more just system.

We send sincere thanks to NACDL, its staff, its members and all those who support its work.

With appreciation,

Mark and Louise Holden



With thanks to and in honor of the incomparable NACDL team

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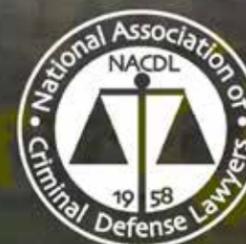


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Our firm has been honored to stand alongside so many NACDL champions this year to reduce and eliminate systemic racism, come to a sober, responsive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on our justice system and lead the call for grace, dignity and mercy for each and every person who comes into contact with the system. We believe Black Lives Matter. We also believe that only in valuing every client's story and cause can our society and community grow. The NACDL family and Bryan's work in particular have taught us all so much about how much good trouble we can get up to and how much mercy we can deliver with the right set of community, caring and moxie.

It is an honor to celebrate with each of you.



"Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society." - John Lewis

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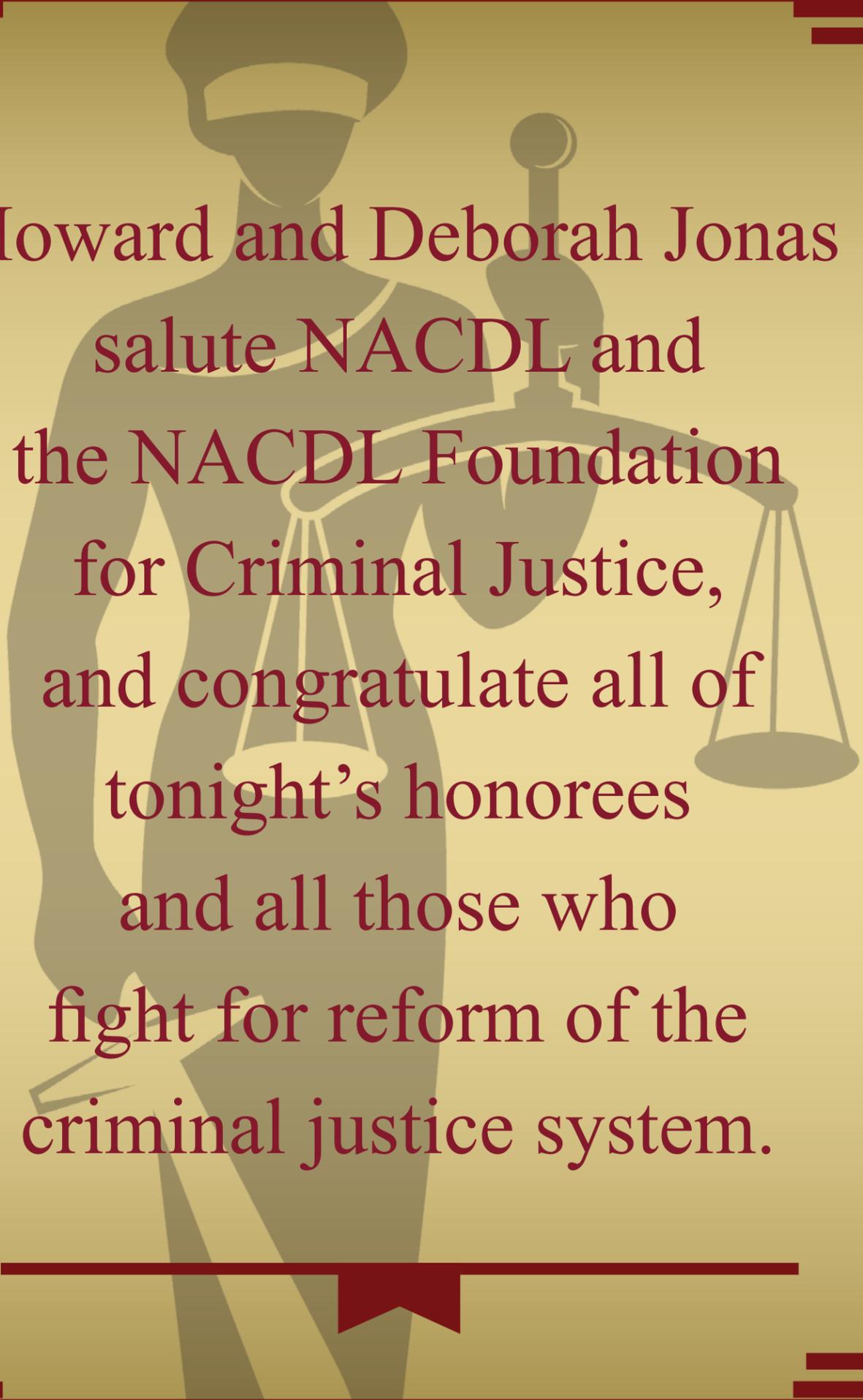
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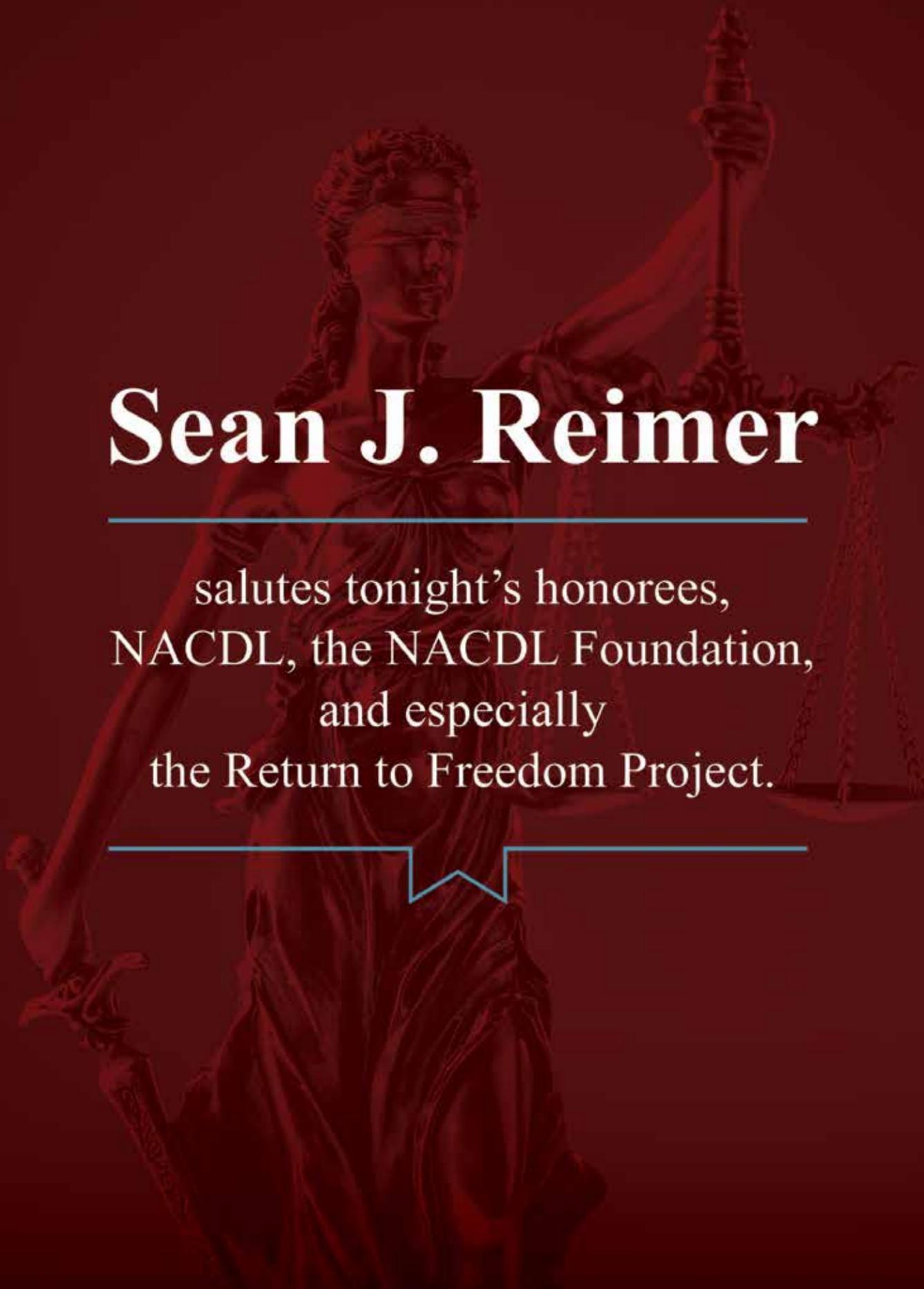
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Howard and Deborah Jonas
salute NACDL and
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and congratulate all of
tonight's honorees
and all those who
fight for reform of the
criminal justice system.



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and especially
the Return to Freedom Project.

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The law firm of Elkins, Auer, Rudof & Schiff celebrates the amazing Bryan Stevenson, who inspires our daily pursuit of justice for our clients.

We also congratulate Nina Ginsberg for her outstanding leadership of NACDL over the past year and Chris Adams for taking the reins and continuing to move us toward a more just world.

And shout out to Lil Baby –
“It can’t change overnight
But we gotta start somewhere
Might as well gon’ head start here.”

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Somebody has to **stand**
when other people are sitting.

Somebody has to **speak**
when other people are quiet.

— Bryan Stevenson

*Congratulations to **Bryan Stevenson** for receiving the NACDL Lifetime Achievement Award.*



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