

THE CARLA FURSTENBERG COHEN LITERARY PRIZE ANNOUNCES ITS 2014 WINNERS

The prize honoring the late Politics & Prose bookstore owner Carla Cohen awards in fiction to *Preparations for the Next Life* by Atticus Lish and in Nonfiction to Bryan Stevenson for *Just Mercy*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Washington, D.C.; February 11, 2015— The 2014 Carla Furstenberg Cohen Literary Prize in fiction has been awarded to Atticus Lish for his first novel *Preparations for the Next Life* and in nonfiction to Bryan Stevenson for his first book *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Last year, the family and close friends of Politics & Prose co-founder Carla Cohen announced the establishment of a new literary prize in her memory. The Carla Furstenberg Cohen Literary Prize is awarded annually to authors of first or second books in fiction and non-fiction.

The Carla Furstenberg Cohen Literary Prizes are judged by two independent juries, one for fiction and the other for non-fiction. Each winner is awarded \$5,000. The prizes are presented annually at an event at Politics & Prose in the spring. The 2014 prizes will be presented May 16 at 8:00pm. This year's fiction judges included Barbara Meade, Cohen's business partner of 25 years in Politics & Prose, longtime friend and buyer for the store Mark LaFramboise, and National Book Award-nominated novelist Howard Norman. Nonfiction judges included longtime national public radio producer Darcy Bacon, America's Promise president and CEO John Gomperts, and American Press Institute executive director and author Tom Rosenstiel, who is one of the nation's most recognized thinkers on the future of media. Jurors, who were chosen by a Board made up of Cohen's friends and family, represent readers who have been part of the Politics & Prose community and reflect the values that Carla Cohen brought to the

endeavor. Neither the Cohen family nor the Politics & Prose current owners, Bradley Graham and Lissa Muscatine, and staff had or will have a veto over the selections.

Carla Cohen was known for her keen interest in new authors many of whom found their first audiences through Politics & Prose. The pool of eligible authors came from books included in two special Politics & Prose newsletters (published in the summer and at the end of the year.) These newsletters designate the store's top picks by the owners and the staff who have earned a reputation as discerning readers with a fine critical judgment. In addition, books by new authors chosen by *Washington Post* critics as outstanding in the previous year will be eligible for the prizes.

David Cohen, Carla's husband and chairman of the Board of The Carla Furstenberg Cohen Literary Prize, had this to say about this year's recipients: "Each jury's choice reflects Carla's legacy: Powerful and clear writing on subjects that we have to deal with now as a society. Such writing has a power of its own."

For more information about The Carla Furstenberg Cohen Literary Prize, please contact Elizabeth Shreve at 202-362-0770 | Elizabeth@shrevewilliams.com.

###