



PRESS RELEASE

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**The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice Hosts its 11th Annual Gala and Celebrates Three Honorees
for Their Dedication to Advancing Social Justice**

Newark, New Jersey — The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice will host its 11th Annual Gala at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on June 7th 2016. This year marks Ryan P. Haygood’s first year as the Institute’s third President and CEO.

“During this exhilarating and rewarding time, my vision for moving the Institute forward and deepening the impact of our work has taken shape. It is an honor for me and the Institute team to advance social justice in the way Amy and Alan Lowenstein envisioned when they founded this mighty organization nearly 20 years ago.”

Paulette Brown, the first Black woman to lead the American Bar Association, will receive our inaugural National Social Justice Award. This honor was established to recognize individuals who have powerfully advanced social justice on a national platform.

The Institute will present Joseph M. Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Panasonic North America, with the Corporate Leadership award for his commitment to bending our urban centers towards community.

The Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Social Justice award will be presented to Lawrence S. Lustberg for his commitment to empowering urban residents and their communities, and for his dedication to the belief that “social justice should be the underlying goal of all humanity.” Lustberg currently serves as the chair of the Gibbons Criminal Defense Department and longtime Director of the firm’s John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law.

The Institute's 2016 Awards Gala will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center St in Newark, New Jersey.

Sponsors of the Gala include Lowenstein Sandler LLP, Panasonic Corporation of North America RWJ Barnabas Health, Kenneth Tanji, Essex Equity, Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey, Prudential, Gibbons P.C. David Bershad, Nina and Theodore Wells, Mindy Cohen, Michael D. Francis, The Fund for New Jersey, John H. and Marcia Lowenstein, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, Rutgers University – Newark

For tickets contact NJISJ at 973-624-9400 or visit our website www.NJISJ.org/Gala-2016

For more information about the event, contact Ashley Okwuosa (aokwuosa@njisj.org) or Kristine Villanueva (kvillanueva@njisj.org)

About The Institute for Social Justice

The Institute's mission is to empower urban residents to realize and achieve their full potential. Established in 1999 by Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein, the Institute's dynamic and independent advocacy is aimed at toppling load-bearing walls of structural inequality to create just, vibrant, and healthy urban communities. We employ a broad range of advocacy tools to advance our ambitious urban agenda, including research, analysis and writing, public education, grassroots organizing, communications, the development of pilot programs, legislative strategies, and litigation.

Using a holistic approach to addressing the unique and critical issues facing New Jersey's urban communities, the Institute advocates for systematic reform that is at once transformative and achievable in the state, and replicable in communities across the nation.

"Social justice should be the underlying goal of all humanity."

-Alan V. Lowenstein, Esq., Founder, NJISJ

