

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2015

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Sports Illustrated, Senator Sherrod Brown, Advocates to Receive Awards for Work on Homelessness

*Acceptees Include: Executive Editor Jon Wertheim, Senator Sherrod Brown,
Latham & Watkins LLP, Roberto "Bobby" Limon*

Washington D.C. - On Tuesday October 27th, 2015 the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty ("The Law Center") will be honoring **Sports Illustrated, Senator Sherrod Brown, Latham & Watkins LLP, and Roberto "Bobby" Limon**, at the 17th Annual McKinney-Vento Awards in Washington D.C. The Law Center will be honoring these exceptional people and organizations, as well as celebrating 26 years of high impact work to protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness and to end homelessness in America. **Kimberly Suiters**, the Emmy-award winning Consumer Investigative Reporter for ABC7/WJLA-TV, will be the emcee for the evening.

Sports Illustrated will receive the Stewart B. McKinney Award and **Senator Sherrod Brown** will receive the Bruce F. Vento Award for bringing awareness and practical solutions to the issues of homelessness. **Sports Illustrated's** October 2014 cover story, "[Young Gifted & Homeless](#)," highlighted the emotional stories of student athletes struggling with homelessness. Their bold exposure of homeless athletes breaks stereotypes about people without permanent housing. In publishing this piece, Sports Illustrated is helping to educate and inform a much broader audience about this critical issue.

Senator Sherrod Brown has fought for renters' rights and veterans in the U.S. Senate for more than two decades and has effectively championed legislation for affordable housing policies and funding to help homeless veterans. In 2014, Sherrod Brown cosponsored legislation that aims to protect renters from being unfairly evicted nationwide. Brown is also the original

co-sponsor of the Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015 that would increase access to permanent housing options for veterans.

Latham & Watkins LLP will receive the Pro Bono Counsel Award. Since 2000, Latham has provided more than 2.5 million pro bono hours of free legal services to the nonprofit sector and the disadvantaged who too often go underrepresented. In collaboration with the Law Center, Latham has challenged an anti-camping law in Boise, Idaho. In addition, the firm has researched the impacts of criminalization on homeless veterans and supported the preparation of our “No Safe Place” report. This report has garnered serious attention and helped us to leverage a shift in the conversation about criminalization. We are grateful for the team’s high-impact work, which allows us to continue to make a difference together in our advocacy work.

Roberto “Bobby” Limon will receive the Personal Achievement Award for his accomplishments and for sharing his inspiring story of courage and determination. Sports Illustrated [featured](#) Bobby Limon’s struggle when his family experienced homelessness. Bobby was a star high school football player when his family reached out to the Law Center for legal help. Homelessness put his health and his eligibility to continue playing football in jeopardy. Despite federal and state protections, students like Bobby, who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act, continue to encounter barriers to staying and participating in school. Bobby is thriving in college today, after receiving a full-scholarship to play Division 1 football.

The McKinney-Vento Awards pays tribute to Congressmen Stewart B. McKinney and Bruce F. Vento, co-authors of the first major legislation addressing the national homelessness crisis. The 17th Annual McKinney-Vento Awards will be held on Tuesday, October 27, at 6 p.m., at the Liaison Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Members of the press, to RSVP, please contact Sarah Knutson at (202)-638-2535 ext. 105 or sknutson@nlchp.org. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (www.nlchp.org) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.