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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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***Best-Selling Author Harlan Coben
to Headline Newark Public Library's Booked for the Evening Benefit***

Harlan Coben, New Jersey native and international best-selling author, will be speaking at the Newark Public Library's annual signature fundraising event, "Booked for the Evening" on Thursday, October 17 at the historic Main Library at 5 Washington Street. The event is chaired by Preston Pinkett, III, President and CEO of Newark-based City National Bank.

With over 50 million books in print worldwide, Harlan Coben's last six consecutive novels, *Six Years*, *Stay Close*, *Live Wire*, *Caught*, *Long Lost*, and *Hold Tight*, all debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. His books are published in 41 languages around the globe and have been number one bestsellers in over a dozen countries. Mr. Coben is the first author to win all three top honors for mystery writers –The Edgar Award (Mystery Writers of America), the Shamus Award (The Private Eye Writers of America) and the Anthony Award (The Bouchercon World Mystery Convention).

Coben was born in Newark, New Jersey. After graduating from Amherst College with a degree in political science, Mr. Coben worked in the travel industry. He now lives in New Jersey with his wife, Anne Armstrong-Coben MD, a pediatrician, and their four children.

Two influential educators, Glenn Shafer, Ph.D. and Nell Painter, Ph.D. will be honored for their outstanding accomplishments and ongoing support of the Library's mission. Dr. Shafer currently serves as the Dean of the Rutgers Business School for the Newark and New Brunswick campuses. He holds both an A.B. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from Princeton University. During Dr. Shafer's tenure as Dean, the school has seen a twenty percent increase in the number of graduate degrees awarded. On the Newark campus, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded has increased by sixty percent. Dr. Shafer has enhanced student exposure to the business community through new mentoring and team consulting programs, the expansion of career services to connect students to businesses through internships and job opportunities, and by engaging Rutgers alumni to help transition students into business professionals.

"The Newark Public Library is a historical resource for the residents of Newark and a wonderful neighbor for the Rutgers Business School," Dean Shafer remarked. "It has a great business

collection and offers an architectural environment treasured by our faculty and students.” The Library counts the students of the school among the patrons it serves.

Dr. Nell Painter received her Ph.D. in American History at Harvard and is a renowned historian and author of and editor of several books, including *The History of White People*. Dr. Painter pursued a formal education in the arts, earning a BFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts of Rutgers University in 2009 and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2011. Today, she is active in Newark’s vibrant arts community. A contemporary artist and accomplished author, Dr. Painter has been a frequent guest of the Library as a presenter and speaker for various awards and discussion series. As a visual artist, Dr. Painter has been in residence at Gallery Aferro in Newark, the Newark Public Library, Yale University, and the Yaddo artists’ colony in Saratoga Springs, New York. She currently shows her work in northern New Jersey and works in a studio in the Ironbound section of Newark.

“Libraries have been home to me forever, but the Newark Public Library--where I have presented my books, been artist-in-residence, and am represented in its visual collection by several pieces of my art work--is a very special and deeply cherished place for me personally,” Painter explains. “As a citizen, of course, I wholeheartedly support the Library's work as a public resource and want to see it prosper.”

Prudential is the event sponsor, having awarded the Library a major capacity building grant. Additional generous donors include Audible.com, City National Bank, Timothy and Gloria Crist, PSE&G, and Verizon.

Benefit tickets range from \$200 for individuals to \$25,000 sponsorship levels. Proceeds from the benefit support the Library’s General Fund. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Elizabeth Bennett at 908-322-1100 or email ebennett@evergreenpr.com.

About the Newark Public Library

The Newark Public Library is the largest municipal library in New Jersey with a collection of more than 1.5 million books, audio and visual materials, and unique collections of prints, photographs, and historical documents. The historic Main Library is at 5 Washington Street in downtown Newark and seven branches are located throughout the City. As it celebrates 125 years of innovation and service, the Newark Public library remains a vital part of the civic and cultural fabric of Newark.