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For immediate release

Foetry.com

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Foetry.com calls the Princeton, NJ based **National Poetry Series** a corrupt competition involving some of America's most famous professors and poets, including **Pulitzer Prize**-winners Philip Levine, Charles Wright, and Jorie Graham. Foetry.com's demands for an explanation of the hidden contest mechanics have been ignored. Tens of thousands of dollars are collected each year from entrants who expect a fair contest, free from conflicts of interest.

The contest period is January 1st - February 15th each year. During that time, the National Poetry Series requires a \$30 entry fee from each contestant. Five winners are chosen and published by five presses. They include HarperCollins Publishers, University of Illinois Press, Viking Penguin, Coffee House Press, and Verse Press.

Foetry asserts that with thousands of entrants, five final judges, who likely read only a small number of finalists each, are given opportunities to **cherry-pick**. Winners are frequently students or friends of the judges. A win of the National Poetry Series often leads to a lucrative career as a poet and professor. The National Poetry Series has not responded to inquiries from Foetry.com, a Poetry Watchdog organization which gained international attention this year for exposing corruption in American poetry.

Professor Janet Holmes of Boise State University claims, "I (in fact) was the person who lost out to [Mark Levine] for the National Poetry Series, receiving a call from them to say that Jorie Graham thought my manuscript was next best. (She was sleeping with the winner. I didn't know it at the time."

The National Poetry Series receives funding from The late James A. Michener, The Copernicus Society of America, The late Edward J. Pizsek, International Institute of Modern Letters, Joyce & Seward Johnson Foundation, Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, The Lannan Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, Stephen Graham, The Tiny Tiger Foundation, and Charles Wright. **The National Poetry Society is at 57 Mountain Avenue, Princeton, NJ, 08540 / (609) 430-0999**

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