

Southern Poverty Law Center Founder Morris Dees to Speak at STCC;
The Public is Invited to Attend

For Alabama lawyer Morris Dees, a deeply-held commitment to racial equality demanded effective action as well. In 1971 he and fellow lawyer Joe Levin founded the Southern Poverty Law Center, and led the way to fight hate groups, teach tolerance, and help make the nation's constitutional ideals a reality.

Dees will speak at Springfield Technical Community College on Thursday, April 16. The event, to be held in the Scibelli Hall gymnasium, will begin at 10:00 a.m., and is open to the public. The presentation will also be broadcast live over WTCC-FM, 90.7 FM, the STCC radio station. Dees' talk is entitled With Justice for All.



Dees' appearance is presented by the STCC Diversity Council, and sponsored by American International College, Baystate Health, Black Men of Greater Springfield, Springfield Department of Health and Human Services, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Peoples Bank, Afro-American Point of View, Springfield College, Unity First, Western New England College, and WTCC-FM.

In 1981, the Southern Poverty Law Center began investigating hate activity, in response to a resurgence of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan. Today the SPLC Intelligence Project monitors hate groups and tracks extremist activity throughout the U.S. Staff members conduct training sessions for police, schools, and civil rights and community groups, and they often serve as experts at hearings and conferences.

The SPLC has achieved significant legal victories, including landmark Supreme Court decisions. The Center's crushing jury verdicts against hate groups included multi-million-dollar judgments against the United Klans of America and the neo-Nazi organization Aryan Nations.

In 1991, SPLC established Teaching Tolerance, an educational program to help K-12 teachers foster respect and understanding in the classroom. These multimedia kits and the award-winning magazine are now used in thousands of classrooms across the country.