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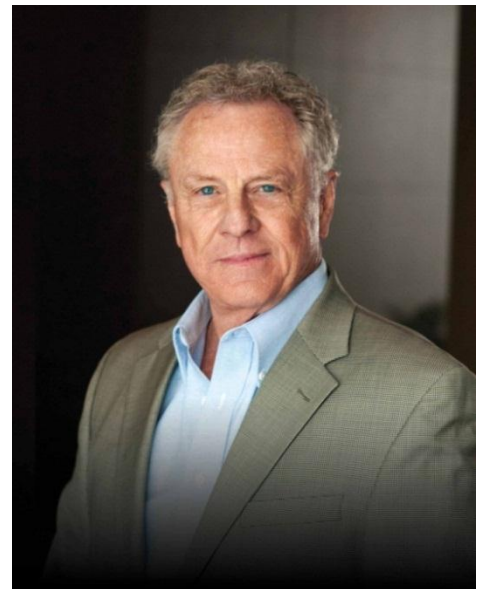
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Southern Poverty Law Center co-founder to speak at King Celebration at Palm Beach State Jan. 17

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Dec. 19, 2012) – Morris Dees, co-founder and chief trial attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., will be the keynote speaker at the Palm Beach State College 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast.

The celebration begins at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 17 with the program beginning at 8:15 a.m. The activities will take place in the outdoor plaza on the Lake Worth campus named in King's honor and the Duncan Theatre. It is free and open to the public.

During the celebration, the College will recognize the recipients of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. They are: **Aileen Josephs**, a West Palm Beach immigration attorney, who has been advocating for sensible immigration reform and has been a voice for the rights of the most vulnerable immigrants, particularly women and children (Individual); **Joseph B. Shearouse, III** (Alumni), president and chief executive officer of First Bank of the Palm Beaches who, among his vast community work, advocated for and was instrumental in the creation of the new Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade; and **John Calderaio** (Student), an honors student and vice president of the Student Government Association at the Palm Beach Gardens campus, who has served as a volunteer math and chemistry tutor and who led the SGA's delegation to a "Rally in Tally." The **Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County**, established in 1985, will receive the award in the organization category. Each year, CAP provides food, housing and other services to more than 2,000 people living with HIV/AIDs and their families.



Dees founded the SPLC in 1971 with attorney Joseph J. Levin, Jr.; civil rights activist Julian Bond became the center's first president. Early cases included integrating the Alabama State Troopers and desegregating the Montgomery YMCA. The SPLC, funded by donations from over

300,000 citizens across the nation, quickly grew into one of America's most successful and innovative public interest law firms.

In 1980, the SPLC founded the Intelligence Project in response to resurgence in organized racist activity. The project monitors hate groups and develops legal strategies for protecting citizens from violence-prone groups. To promote acceptance and tolerance, the SPLC founded Teaching Tolerance in 1990. Over 80,000 schools use the project's free videos and teaching materials, and over 400,000 teachers receive the award-winning Teaching Tolerance magazine. The SPLC has won two Oscars for its tolerance education films and received five Oscar nominations.

Known for his innovative lawsuits that crippled some of America's most notorious white supremacist hate groups, Dees has received numerous awards connected to his work, including the American Bar Association's ABA Medal, its highest medal, earlier this year. He was the subject of a made-for-television movie, "Line of Fire," about his successful fight against the Ku Klux Klan, including a \$7 million precedent-setting judgment against the United Klans of America on behalf of the mother of Michael Donald, an African American man lynched by the Klan in Mobile, Ala. A graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, he is the author of three books including his autobiography, "A Lawyer's Journey."

For more information about the celebration, visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/mlk](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/mlk).

*Serving 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.*

**Editor's note:** Contact College Relations and Marketing for a high-resolution photo of Morris Dees.

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