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Civil Rights Activist to Speak at CTLA's 12th Annual Spring Dinner
*Attendees will hear about Morris Dees' legal battles
against the KKK, neo-Nazi groups and more.*

April 29, 2009 (Denver, Colorado) - The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA), the largest specialty bar association in the state, hosts its 12th Annual Spring Dinner on Thursday, May 7 at the Marriott Denver City Center with featured guest speaker, **Morris Dees**, civil rights activist, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and trial attorney.

In the 1980s and '90s, Dees bankrupted various chapters of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and neo-Nazi groups with a series of historic lawsuits.

Today, he is chief trial counsel at the Center. In his pioneering role, Dees participates in suing hate groups and mapping new directions for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

At the dinner, the association also will honor **Murray Ogborn**, CTLA's 2005 president, with the Kenneth Norman Kripke Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Kenneth Norman Kripke Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an attorney in practice for more than 25 years, whose career has exemplified the skills, ethics and dedication embodied in the CTLA mission.

Additionally, CTLA will recognize **Sen. Ken Gordon** with the Consumer Protection Award and **Deborah Taussig** with the New Lawyer of the Year Award.

"Murray and Debbie are both one-of-a-kind members who put their hearts into protecting the rights of individuals," said John Sadwith, CTLA executive director. "Sen. Gordon has stood up for consumer rights in an extraordinary fashion," he added.

Tickets for CTLA's 12th Annual Spring Dinner are \$160 for an individual or \$2250 for a table of 10 guests. To order tickets, call CTLA at (303) 831-1192 or visit www.ctlanet.org.

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association is comprised of Colorado trial lawyers who are committed to the protection and advancement of individual rights and to the advancement of trial advocacy skills, high ethical standards and professionalism in the ongoing effort to preserve and improve the American system of jurisprudence.

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