President Michael V. Drake and Provost Bruce A. McPherson invite you to attend the nineteenth annual, spring semester, Diversity Lecture and Cultural Arts Series at The Ohio State University. This program offers the campus and the Columbus community opportunities to benefit from some of the most eminent scholars, artists, and professionals who discuss and exemplify inclusive excellence through diversity.

**19th Annual President and Provost’s Diversity Lecture and Cultural Arts Series**

with **MORRIS DEES** (Southern Poverty Law Center)

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 28, 2018**

**5:00 p.m.**

The Ohio State University
The Faculty Club
181 S. Oval Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

Free and open to the public
(Doors open at 4:30 p.m.)

Seating is limited. RSVP required.
RSVP @ go.osu.edu/MDees

In 1971, Attorney Morris Dees, along with fellow attorney Joseph J. Levin Jr. and civil rights activist Julian Bond, co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center. Based in Montgomery, the not-for-profit agency was formed to "combat hate, intolerance and discrimination through education and litigation." While at the SPLC, Dees worked on a strategy of filing civil suits against hate groups, claiming damages for the violence incited by these groups. One high-profile case where he applied this strategy was the 1981 lynching of Michael Donald, a crime committed by three Klan members. With the assistance of Dees and the SPLC, Donald's mother was awarded a $7 million settlement from the United Klans of America, bankrupting the group.


Over the years, the kinds of cases Attorney Dees handled many sensitive cases, but that has not kept him from his investigative activity throughout the United States. In 2012, Dees was awarded the American Bar Association's ABA Medal for his dedication to the pursuit of tolerance, justice and equality with accompanying threats.