

**The Morris Dees Justice Award** was established to honor University of Alabama alumnus and civil rights attorney Morris Dees for his life-long career dedicated to public service, including his fight for civil rights, equality, and freedom, and against poverty, discrimination, and racism.

Lawyers across the nation submitted nominations for lawyers who have devoted their careers to serving the public interest and pursuing justice, and whose work has brought about a positive change in the community, state, or nation. For more information please visit <http://MorrisDeesJusticeAward.com>.



## Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

- One of the nation's largest law firms, Skadden was founded in 1948 by Marshall Skadden, John Slate, and Les Arps.
- The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was established in 1988. Described as "a legal Peace Corps," the 2007 class of Fellows brings to 503 the number of academically outstanding law school graduates and judicial clerks the firm has funded to work full-time for legal and advocacy organizations.
- Skadden has been named the best corporate law firm in the U.S. by *Corporate Board Member* magazine seven years in a row.
- Skadden has approximately 2,000 attorneys in 22 offices around the globe.
- In 22 of the 24 years in which *The American Lawyer* magazine has published its annual "Corporate Scorecard" Skadden has ranked first in M&A transactions.

## The University of Alabama School of Law

- Founded in 1872, the law school is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among public law schools nationally.
- The law school was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> on *The National Jurist* best value list.
- Graduates include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black; Morris Dees, Co-Founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center; Judge Frank Johnson; and U.S. Senators Howell Heflin, Jeff Sessions, and Richard Shelby.
- Seven U.S. Supreme Court Justices have lectured at the school, including the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 2003-2004; Justices Clarence Thomas and Stephen Breyer in 2005- 2006; and Justice Samuel Alito in 2007.
- Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, attended the law school.

### Student Body and Faculty Numbers:

- Approximately 500 J.D. students
- 42 full-time faculty
- 26 adjunct faculty
- Less than 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- Average first-year course size of 55 students

### Degrees Offered:

- Juris Doctor (J.D.)
- J.D./M.B.A. (Joint Program)
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) -- International Graduate Program
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation

## Event Details

- November 15, 2007, 5:30-7:30 pm.
- New York Skadden office  
4 Times Square
- Morris Dees will present the award
- Alabama blues legend, Willie King, will provide entertainment
- The winner will receive an original sculpture created by Jillian Crochet, winner of the Morris Dees Design Competition.
- Press Contact: Tim Larimer,  
212.735.3733

## 2007 Selection Committee

- Morris Dees, Honorary Chair
- Robert C. Sheehan, Executive Partner, Skadden
- Kenneth Randall, Dean and Thomas E. McMillan Professor, The University of Alabama School of Law
- Mary Bauer, Director Immigrant Justice Project, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Debbie Elliott, NPR Congressional Correspondent
- Bryan Fair, Thomas E. Skinner Professor of Law, The University of Alabama School of Law
- Jack Greenberg, Alphonse Fletcher Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
- Judge William Wayne Justice, U.S. District Judge, Winner, 2006 Morris Dees Justice Award
- Susan Butler Plum, Director, Skadden Fellowship Program
- Jamiene S. Studley, President and CEO, Public Advocates, Inc.
- John Trasvina, President and General Counsel, MALDEF
- Tari Devon Williams, Director, Public Interest Law Programs, The University of Alabama School of Law
- Vaughn Williams, Partner, Skadden

**The Morris Dees Justice Award is sponsored by**

**Skadden & THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**  
SCHOOL OF LAW

## PARTICIPANTS

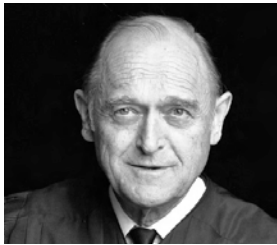
### 2007 Recipient



Arthur N. Read, Esq.

Arthur N. Read, General Counsel for Friends of Farmworkers, Inc., a legal services provider in Philadelphia, was nominated by more than 20 organizations and individuals. His many successful negotiations and cases have changed the face of workers' rights in Pennsylvania, and served as models throughout the nation. A frequent lecturer and author on workers' rights, Read is also known for his role in *Vlasic Farms, Inc. v. Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board* (2001), which provided workers the right to organize, and *El Concilio v. DER* (1984), which improved worker housing. The Selection Committee recognized Read for nearly 30 years of tireless, courageous, and effective representation of farmworkers and immigrants.

### 2006 Recipient



Judge William Wayne Justice

United States District Judge William Wayne Justice, of the Eastern District of Texas, was nominated by over 100 people from across the nation. The nominees included judges, law school deans, bar associations, his former clerks and secretary. The nomination noted, "Judge Justice has, just like Morris Dees, been a front line soldier in many of the pitched battles that have shaped America justice for the last century. . . ." The Selection Committee recognized him for his life-long efforts to protect civil rights and safeguard constitutional rights, including more than 30 years of service as a federal district court judge. His notable cases dealt with integration, prisoners' rights and care for the mentally challenged.

### Honorary Chair



Morris Dees, Esq.

Morris Dees is the co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. The Center is internationally known for tracking hate groups and extremist activity, conducting tolerance training education and winning cases against white supremacists. Dees is a 1960 graduate of The University of Alabama School of Law. Dees frequently speaks to universities and legal associations. His autobiography, *A Season For Justice* (1991) was re-released in 2001 by the American Bar Association as *A Lawyer's Journey: The Morris Dees Story*. He also wrote *Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi* (1993) and *Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat* (1996).

### Co-Chairs

Robert C. Sheehan

Executive Partner, Skadden Arps



Robert C. Sheehan is a graduate of Boston College (1966) and the University of Pennsylvania Law School (1969). He began his career with Skadden in 1969 and became a partner in 1978 and Executive Partner in 1994. Prior to his selection as Executive Partner, Sheehan headed the Financial Institutions Merger & Acquisition Group, which he had founded. Sheehan, who has been cited by publications as one of the world's leading banking lawyers, has represented numerous bank and thrift holding companies, both as acquirors and as targets, in negotiated and unsolicited acquisition transactions. Sheehan has also served as counsel for financial institutions in connection with their relations with various state and federal banking regulatory authorities.

Kenneth Randall

Dean and Thomas E. McMillan Professor of Law, The University of Alabama School of Law



Dean Randall holds four law degrees: doctorate from Columbia University School of Law (1988), where he was the W. Bayard Cutting Jr. Fellow of International Law (1984-85); master's from Columbia (1985); master's from Yale University (1982), which he attended on a fellowship; and J.D. from Hofstra University (1981), where he was the editor-in-chief of the Hofstra Law Review and was named the outstanding law graduate by the faculty. Randall practiced law with the Wall Street firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett from 1982 to 1984. He joined the Alabama faculty in 1985 and was selected by students as the outstanding faculty member (1987-88). He served as vice dean from 1989 to 1993 and as dean from 1993 to the present. Randall is the author of an international law book published by Duke University Press; his articles have appeared in some of

the nation's leading law journals. He has served the American Bar Association as an inspector for the re-accreditation of more than a dozen law schools throughout the nation.