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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Vivian G. Harsh Society to honor James D. Montgomery at  
Timuel D. Black, Jr. Fund Benefit Event**

CHICAGO (August 20, 2010) On Sunday, September 26, 2010 at the Harold Washington Library Center, 92 year-old Chicago historian Timuel D. Black, in support of the Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc., will honor social activist and attorney James Montgomery in an effort to raise funds for research fellowships. Timuel D. Black Fellows are granted full access to use the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature housed at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library.

“We chose to honor James Montgomery this year to give respect to his amazing contribution to Chicago history. To African American history.” Says Black.

James Montgomery is renowned for his handling of civil rights cases, as well as criminal, personal injury and medical malpractice suits. In the 1960's, his clients included the Black Panthers. In 1983, Montgomery made history when he became the corporation counsel for the city of Chicago under Mayor Harold Washington. He was the first and only African American to hold this position. In 2000 Montgomery became managing partner in the law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens, Smith and Montgomery and together with the well-known (now deceased) trial attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, they have successfully handled important social justice cases.

The events begin at 2:00PM on Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> with a free lecture and panel discussion in the Library's lower-level Cindy Pritzker Auditorium. The panel will be Co-Moderated by Vivian G. Harsh Society board members, Harold Rogers, Professor Emeritus, City Colleges and James Grossman, Ph.D., newly appointed Executive Director of the American Historical Association. Panelists include Jesus Garcia, Jackie Grimshaw, David Orr and Congressman Danny Davis. ***Pre-registration is required as seating is limited.***

Following at 4PM, will be a fundraising reception and dinner in the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Winter Garden. Chicago resident jazz genius, Orbert Davis, will provide the musical entertainment for this private event. ***(\$150 per person; rsvp before 9/20/2010)***

This entire effort is directed by, and in support of, the **Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization, focused on preservation, making the Collection accessible to the public, and publicizing of the Collection and its programs. With the 2009 addition of the Abott-Sengstacke Papers, the Collection is the largest of its kind in the Midwest. **The Timuel D. Black Jr. Fund** supports research fellowships related to the holdings in the Collection. Individuals, Ariel Investments, Kraft Foods, The Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Polk Bros. Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, and The Driehaus Foundation, generously support the **Timuel D. Black Jr. Fund.**

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