

# THE ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

NEW YORK--DETROIT--LOS ANGELES--NASHVILLE

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release:

October 15, 2003

### Contact Person

Monika Rogowski  
(313) 961-3580

## DETROIT ATTORNEY WINS THE STATE BAR'S HIGHEST HONOR FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER

Lansing, Michigan—Detroit attorney Gregory J. Reed will be presented with the State Bar of Michigan's highest and most prestigious honor for entertainment attorneys, the John Hensel Award, on October 17, 2003. The award will be presented to him at a strolling supper during the State Bar of Michigan Arts, Communication Entertainment and Sport Section's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Our Town Fine Arts Exhibition and Sale, at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan at 7:00 p.m. This honor is given each year by the section to a Michigan attorney who has made significant contributions to the arts, communications, entertainment or sports fields.

An attorney for over two decades, Reed has made his mark in the legal arena by being a trailblazer and a relentless advocate for entertainers, athletes, individuals and his country.

Some of Reed's career highlights include his suits against the Miss USA beauty pageant and on behalf of **Mrs. Rosa Parks** and the family members of the original **Temptations**. Through his representation of two Miss USAs, Carole Gist and Gretchen Polhemus, Reed successfully challenged the inhumane and unreasonable terms of beauty contest employment contracts and force the industry to adopt more equitable terms for their title holders.

Reed has also championed private individuals' right to control the commercial use of their own name, image, voice and likeness in suits involving the Temptations miniseries and the Rosa Parks song. The Rosa Parks case against rap group **OutKast** and **La Face Records** stemming from their unauthorized use of Mrs. Rosa Parks' name as the title to a rap song was recently reversed in favor of Mrs. Parks by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The landmark decision has reshaped the Circuit's view of the law and sparked a movement to adopt a right of publicity statute in Michigan. Reed was the senior lead attorney for Mrs. Parks. Co-Counselors were **Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.** of Los Angeles, **Richard Manson** of Nashville and **Stephanie L. Hammonds** of Detroit

(more)

Reed has also successfully litigated 100% copyright infringement actions he has undertaken against *Mariah Carey, Too Short, NWA (Eazy E, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, MC Ren and DJ Yella)* and filed successful royalty collection and breach of contract actions against *Motown Records, K-Tel International, Atlantic Records, MCA Records, Priority Records* and *Sony Music Entertainment* and others.

Reed was one of the youngest agents in the U.S. representing athletes as a law student at Wayne State University. He has represented athletes in all areas of professional sports except for hockey and he is the only attorney to represent six world boxing champions.

A partial list of his clientele includes the late **Dr. Betty Shabazz, Anita Baker, Johnnie Cochran, Jr., The Winans, actor John Amos, Wynton Marsalis, The Four Tops, David Ruffin, Eddie Kendrick** and the late **Phyllis Hyman**.

In 1987 he served as the chair of the Arts, Entertainment and Sport Section of the State Bar. Reed is the first African American in the history of this state to hold that position.

Reed's work has also earned him other recognitions. He was elected into the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association Hall of Fame. He was also selected alumnus of the year by Michigan State University and was inducted into the Southwestern High School Hall of Fame. He is a former board member of the Michigan State Foundation and the Michigan State Museum Board and has served in an advisory capacity to assist with the formation of the *Muhammad Ali Museum*. He is also widely recognized as an expert witness in entertainment related matters nationwide. Most recently he has served as an expert witness in the lawsuit between former members of **Destiny's Child** and managers for the current group members.

A graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University Law School, Reed went on to earn an L.L. M in taxation from Wayne State University Law School becoming the first African American in Michigan to receive such a degree. In 1988, he returned to Wayne State University as a faculty member as the first African American to teach taxation at the university's prestigious business school. Reed received national recognition in the New York Times and Time Magazine for preserving the legacy of **Malcolm X** by acquiring the original manuscript of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" along with three unpublished chapters from the estate of author **Alex Haley**.

(more)

In 2003, Reed also founded the Hip-Hop Entertainment Clinic, an interactive clinic where veterans from the music, film and literary fields will share valuable insights on overcoming obstacles of entrepreneurship and successfully marketing entertainment projects with aspiring artists and veterans. He is also the curator of the "100 Plus One: Before Motown and Beyond, Celebrating America's Music" exhibit which showcases over a century of African-American owned record companies, artists and musical genres and their contributions.

An author as well as a teacher, Reed has written 12 books and is the first Michigan author to receive the **American Book Award** and earned an **NAACP Image Award** for a book he co-authored with Mrs. Parks. His books "This Business of of Boxing and its Secrets" and "Negotiations Behind Closed Doors" were both endorsed by the American Bar Association and were the first books of their kind in the industry.

For reservations to attend the award presentation, contact Kathie at (248) 594-6403 by Friday, October 10, 2003.

#####