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MOTOWN WALK OF FAME UNVEILED: ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER AWARDED WITH STATE BAR'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

Birmingham, Michigan—Detroit attorney/author Gregory J. Reed first African American to be presented with the State Bar of Michigan's highest and most prestigious honor for an entertainment attorney, the John Hensel Award. The award was presented to him at a strolling supper during the October 2003 State Bar of Michigan Arts, Communication Entertainment and Sport Section's 18th Annual Meeting, at The Community House in Birmingham. Reed said "to be recognized by your peers for excellence in your field is truly a great honor." At the conclusion of Reed's acceptance speech he unveiled his newest project, *The Motown Walk of Fame*, with Billy Wilson at his side, President of the Motown Alumni Association. The two collaborated to launch the Motown walk of Fame in Detroit to recognize the contributors of Motown's rich history and to draw tourism internationally to Detroit.

The Motown Walk of Fame will cover more than 20 city blocks, the committee is considering three areas within the city of Detroit for the Walk of Fame to debut, and they are also in the final stages of selecting the first five stars to be inducted for the Motown Walk of Fame presented by the Motown Alumni Association.

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 law 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' rights 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 with Co-counsel Johnnie L. Cochran.

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 10 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 has included the late **Dr. Betty Shabazz, Anita Baker, Johnnie Cochran, Jr., The Winans, Vickie Winans, Vanessa Bell-Armstrong, actor John Amos, Wynton Marsalis, The Four Tops, David Ruffin and Eddie Kendrick of the Temptations, late Phyllis Hyman, etc.**

In 1987 he served as the chair of the Arts, Entertainment and Sports Section of the State Bar. Reed is the first African American to chair this position in the U.S.

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. He is a former vice chairman of the Michigan State Foundation and a member Michigan State University 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 the managers for the current group members.

As a graduate of Michigan State University, Reed received a degree in engineering and a masters degree in management science. He also earned a law degree and L.L.M (master) in taxation laws 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 of the book from the estate of author **Alex Haley**.

In 2003, Reed also founded the Hip-Hop Entertainment Clinic, an interactive clinic where veterans from the music, film and literary fields 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 of 12 books, as well as a teacher, Reed is the first Michigan author to receive the **American Book Award** and the **NAACP Image Award** for a book he co-authored with Mrs. Rosa Parks. His book "Tax Planning and Contract Negotiation for Athletes and Entertainers" was endorsed by the American Bar Association and was the first book of its kind in the industry.

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