

THE ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK
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**HIGHEST HONOR FROM STATE BAR FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT
LAWYER: UNVEILS MOTOWN WALK OF FAME**

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 entertainment attorneys, the John Hensel Award, on Friday, October 17, 2003. The award was presented to him at a strolling supper during the 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 you 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 this project 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, Reed is considering three areas in the city for the Walk of Fame to debut, and the committee is in the final stages of selecting the first five stars to be inducted.

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.

(more)

Co-Counsels were **Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.** of Los Angeles, **Richard Manson** of Nashville and **Stephanie L. Hammonds** of Detroit.

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.

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 book "Contract Negotiation and Tax Planning for Athletes and Entertainers" was endorsed by the American Bar Association and was the first books of its kind in the industry.

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