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INFORMATION RELEASE

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“Chicago Court Victory for the ‘Godfather of Soul’: James Brown, in Right of Publicity Case”

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Allen S. Goldberg today issued a judicial opinion in favor of singer James Brown (“The Godfather of Soul”) in a case Brown brought against California’s Corbis Corporation for selling Brown’s photographs over the internet for commercial purposes.

The Court, after examining recent cases decided across the country, including the Napster and Grogster internet cases, ruled in a written opinion that Brown’s claim was not pre-empted by the federal copyright act, and that defendant Corbis Corp. was selling Brown’s photos for commercial purposes and for profit. The Court also allowed Corbis Corp. to take an immediate appeal of his ruling, if Corbis wishes to do so.

Today’s ruling continues Brown’s favorable rulings in the case. Previously, on July 23, 2004, the Court had denied Corbis’ motion to dismiss the case. The case was brought under Illinois ‘right- to- publicity act’, which protects celebrities from the improper commercial exploitation of their image or photograph. Corbis is the nation’s second-largest stock photography house; it also sells news photographs to the media. (a practice unaffected by

today's ruling).

For more information, contact Brown's attorneys, Arthur Gold and William Coulson, at Gold & Coulson, 312- 372- 0777.

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