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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MATLOCK, GIBSON, GUPTA, COLEMAN, KAPONE JOIN MEMPHIS MUSIC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Memphis, TN** – The Memphis Music Foundation is proud to announce the addition of five new members to its Board of Directors: Alexandra Matlock, J.W. Gibson II, Hemant Gupta, Alex Coleman and Al Kapone.

#### *Alexandra Matlock*

Since 2005, Alexandra Matlock has served as Operations Manager for Mendelson and Associates, the publishers of *La Prensa Latina*, the only bilingual newspaper for Memphis and the Mid-South, M-Teen Magazine, the only magazine targeted to Memphis metro area teenagers, and the annually printed Hispanic Yellow Pages. Previously, she served as a Marketing Consultant for Thomas Media, Inc. Radio Group in Jackson, Tenn. She currently serves as a board member of United Housing and the Memphis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

#### *J.W. Gibson, II*

James Wesley Gibson II is a native Memphian. His early childhood was spent in the Dixie Homes housing development. He attended Memphis City Schools and served in the U.S. Navy. J.W. later attended Christian Brothers College. J.W. started his professional career by making the decision to take his knowledge of buying and procurement and become a self-appointed businessman. From the trunk of his car and his family's garage, he began a medical supply distribution company, The Premier Group. During the 1990s, J.W. started his involvement in real estate with the formation of Southeast Regional Development Corporation. The mission of SRDC is to create opportunities promoting upper mobility and self-sufficiency for residents of inner-city neighborhoods through housing and economic development. In 2004, he established Tec-Print, LLC, to provide a broad range of printing services, including those required by the Tennessee Education Lottery. J.W. has previously served on the board of the Center City Commission, Leadership Memphis and the Christian Brothers University Board of Trustees. J.W. was also elected to the Shelby County Commission and represents District 2.

#### *Hemant Gupta*

Hemant Gupta is an intellectual property attorney who has been practicing with Butler Snow since 2007. He attended the University of Memphis Law School and holds a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to attending law school, he worked in cancer research, Hematology-Oncology department, at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. His areas of legal expertise include intellectual property, technology and media, business planning operations, copyrights

and trademarks and music and entertainment law. Among his many distinguished papers and presentations, in January of 2009, Hemant presented a workshop called “Publishing and the Performing Rights Organizations” for Music Resource Center members.

#### *Alex Coleman*

Alex Coleman joined News Channel 3 in 1984. During his long tenure with the station, he has served in many roles. Currently he co-anchors “Live at 9” and co-anchors the news at 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. with April Thompson. Alex earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Alabama in his hometown of Tuscaloosa, where he began his career in the news. Alex has received numerous awards for journalism and community involvement, including the National Conference of Christians and Jews Award for Community Service, the New York Times Black Achiever in Industry Award and he was a finalist for a National Association of Black Journalists Award. Despite a demanding schedule of reporting and anchoring, Alex enjoys taking time to speak to school groups and civic organizations. He is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and has served as a board member for the Fogelman YMCA and the Blues Foundation.

#### *Al Kapone*

Born and raised in Memphis, Al Kapone found himself, along with his peers, developing a new southern hip hop sound that would later be dubbed crunk music. Aside from groups like Three Six Mafia and Eightball & MJG, most Memphis artists, Kapone included, would go unnoticed to the rest of the country until Craig Brewer and John Singleton’s cult classic film *Hustle and Flow*, which sent Kapone into the global spotlight. Writer and producer on three tracks from the film and soundtrack, Kapone earned a Critic’s Choice Award for “It Ain’t Over: The Hustle and Flow Theme.” This led Kapone to write and produce music for other films, including the No. 1 box office hit *Stomp The Yard* featuring platinum recording artists Neo and Chris Brown, *Cadillac Records* featuring multi-platinum megastar Beyonce. Following these successes, Kapone landed a co-publishing deal with EMI Music Publishing. Meanwhile he is still developing his career as an artist and performer, focusing on the Memphis music legacy and recording with live instruments, working toward a fresh new hip hop sound that is unique to the Memphis scene. He was the first hip hop artist to be president of the Memphis Chapter of the Grammys and he was a feature artist on MTV’s *\$5 Cover* produced by Craig Brewer.

*About the Memphis Music Foundation*

The Memphis Music Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to working with the community to cultivate a viable economic engine for Memphis by providing musicians and the music industry with resources and opportunities for growth and independence. The Foundation exists to educate the music community about music business systems and trends, help artists develop plans for future business growth, and create dynamic marketing and promotional opportunities for Memphis music. The Foundation's anchor program, the Music Resource Center is an interactive, living education and information center that offers a devoted staff, tools, and educational programs to help area musicians and music professionals. The Foundation is funded, in part, by public and private funds provided through the Economic Development (MemphisED) Plan, designed to ensure economic growth and prosperity in Memphis and Shelby County.

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