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## 'Soul Man' sues filmmakers for depicting him

### Surviving member of Sam & Dave says Samuel L. Jackson's 'tawdry' portrayal tarnishes his reputation

By E. Thomas Wood

02-18-2009 1:04 PM — Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Sam Moore, one half of the Stax Records duo Sam & Dave in the 1960s, has **filed suit** in Nashville's federal court against movie producers Harvey and Bob Weinstein as well as others involved in the film "Soul Men," released last November.

Moore, his wife Joyce Moore and a Tennessee trust they control allege that the movie, which stars Samuel L. Jackson and the late Bernie Mac, is closely patterned on the career of Sam & Dave and the lives of Moore and his now-deceased singing partner, Dave Prater. One of their best-known hits was "Soul Man," and they were often billed as the "Soul Men."



Sam & Dave, from a poster reproduced as an exhibit to the lawsuit

"Soul Men" tells the story of two soul singers in a duo called the Real Deal. Like Moore and Prater, the characters broke up their band years earlier amid personal problems and professional differences. After a former colleague dies, they reunite to perform a tribute concert at New York's Apollo Theater, taking a cross-country road trip together from Los Angeles.

The lawsuit says Moore learned of the film project early last year. "The movie's title, theme, characters, and music (the Memphis sound which became synonymous with Stax Records) immediately raised suspicions that the lead characters of the movie were being passed off as 'Sam and Dave,'" the complaint says.

Lawyer-letters were exchanged. Moore's attorney **asked the Weinstains** to see to it that Moore's "persona and reputation were properly respected and compensated as part of the production and its budget." In response, the letter says, an assistant to Weinstein called



