

Pharrell Williams, Robin Thicke Hit With \$7.4 Million Judgment for Ripping Off Motown Legend Marvin Gaye

Heirs of the late soul singer **Marvin Gaye** won a \$7.4 million judgment on Tuesday against recording stars Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams, who a jury found plagiarized the Motown artist in the creation of their hit single “Blurred Lines.”

The U.S. District Court jury in Los Angeles sided with **Gaye’s** estate, finding that parts of his 1977 hit “Got to Give it Up” were lifted by Thicke and Williams for their 2013 R&B chart-topper.

The jury awarded **Gaye’s** heirs \$4 million in actual damages plus \$3.4 million in profits that Thicke and Williams were found to have derived from their copyright infringement.

Several other parties sued by **Gaye’s** estate, the rapper T.I. and various music companies, were cleared of infringement.

Gaye’s daughter, Nona **Gaye**, hugged her attorney and wept as the court clerk read the verdict capping a weeklong trial that explored the boundaries between artistic inspiration and theft.

“Right now I feel free, free from, honestly, from Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke’s chains and what they tried to keep on us, and the lies that they told,” she said.

Neither Thicke nor Williams was present for the verdict.

Their lawyer, Howard King, said they were keeping their options open. “It’s a lot of money. It’s not going to bankrupt

my clients. It's a disappointing number," he said.

The attorney for **Gaye**'s heirs, Richard Busch, said they would seek an injunction to halt further distribution of "Blurred Lines."

The suit cited magazine interviews given by Thicke in which he admitted drawing on "Got to Give it Up" when producing and recording "Blurred Lines."

Thicke said later in sworn statements he was high on painkillers and alcohol when "Blurred Lines" became a hit and that he exaggerated his contribution to writing the song.

Thicke sang the raunchy, percussive dance tune, the biggest U.S. pop song of the summer of 2013, at that year's MTV Video Music Awards in a provocative performance featuring pop singer Miley Cyrus.

Williams acknowledged in court he had been a fan of **Gaye**'s music since childhood, but said "Blurred Lines" and "Got to Give it Up" were similar in genre only.

"The last thing you want to do as a creator is take something of someone else's when you love him," Williams testified. **Gaye**, whose hits included "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," was fatally shot by his father in 1984 at age 44.

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