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Appeal by Oswald's widow will be studied by court

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — A federal appeals court has taken under advisement arguments that the government owes presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's widow \$300,000 for seizing some of her husband's personal effects.

Attorneys for Marina N. Oswald Porter argued in a closed-door session of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday the \$3,000 granted their client by a federal district court in Dallas was not enough.

They asked the circuit court to throw out the lower court's decision and award Mrs. Porter \$500,000 in compensation for the property she claimed the government reduced the value of by damaging it and by publishing Oswald's diary and other documents which appeared in the Warren Commission report.

The Texas court had declared the \$3,000 sufficient to cover the value of the 300 articles taken by the government in its investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Congress later passed a special act to preserve the items taken from Oswald's home so the evidence would not be lost, stolen or destroyed.

The property mostly comprised personal effects such as letters, the diary he kept in Russia, family photographs, his marriage license and other documents.

In the brief filed by her attorneys, Mrs. Porter claimed the Texas court's ruling in the case was "the second time the government has accused, tried and convicted Lee Harvey Oswald of a crime without evidence."

"In this instance, however, they have gone even further and are attempting to visit the assumed and judicially unproven sins of the father upon his widow and children," the brief continued.

Mrs. Porter claimed again in the suit that her husband was neither an assassin, a murderer, a criminal, nor wrongdoer of any kind."

A spokesman for the circuit court said a decision by the court could be expected some time next week.

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