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DATE

Ruby appeal to be argued on June 24

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Jack Ruby's death sentence appeal in the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald will be argued before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on June 24.

In a highly unusual move, the court Wednesday set the hearing date only two days after District Court in Dallas ruled that Ruby, 55, was legally sane.

The three-judge appellate court normally hears such cases only on Wednesdays. It indicated it would not hand down its ruling in the case until the fall.

Ruby was sentenced to death in Dallas on March 14, 1964 for the Nov. 24, 1963 shooting of Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

The appeal of the conviction had become ensnared in a series of legal complications, among them the long-postponed sanity trial that was held Monday.

The June 24 proceedings is to be the first appellate review of the conviction. The criminal appeals court is the highest in Texas for noncivil matters.

It goes into summer recess June 25 until Oct. 5, and is forbidden by the Texas constitution to take any official actions during that time.

"We're glad the court is going to hear the appeal," said defense lawyer Phil Burlison of Dallas. "We will be ready."

Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander said the state also would be ready to argue June 24.

Each side will be given an unusually lengthy 1½ hours in opening arguments and each will have 30 minutes in which to close. In addition, the court said certain other lawyers would be permitted 30 minutes to argue under a "friend of the court" provision.