

Lawyer Blisters Simpson Team's Photo Expert

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SANTA MONICA, Calif., Dec. 20—O.J. Simpson's photo expert was attacked in court today as a conspiracy nut and high school dropout who is unqualified to analyze, much less brand as fake, a photo of Simpson in Italian shoes.

In the most contentious cross-examination of Simpson's wrongful death trial, a plaintiff's lawyer portrayed Robert Groden as a Kennedy conspiracy buff with a desire to capitalize on the Simpson case.

Simpson's lawyer countered by accusing the plaintiffs of "character assassination."

Simpson, who initially was scheduled to testify today before jurors took off for a two-week holiday break, was not in court.

The families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman filed the wrongful death lawsuit against Simpson last year after he was acquitted of murder in their June 1994, slayings.

The photo that Groden analyzed for the defense was the only powerful new piece of evidence to surface after Simpson was acquitted of the killings. It shows Simpson wearing the same style of Bruno Magli shoes as the killer.

Simpson has insisted from the outset that the picture is a fake.