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HEADLINE: Oswald: Trial by television

BYLINE: Brian Donlon

DATELINE: NEW YORK

KEYWORD: LEE HARVEY OSWALD: COURT TV

BODY:

The USA's most celebrated murder mystery is going to trial and TV viewers can watch it live.

The Trial of the Century: The United States v. Lee Harvey Oswald will air on Court TV Aug. 10-11. The trial of the accused killer of President John F. Kennedy is being presented by the American Bar Association as part of its annual meeting.

"It is based on real evidence," says Court TV vice president Merrill Brown. "There are some very serious people doing some very serious work."

Trial lawyers and federal and state judges will participate. Actors will portray Oswald, his wife, Marina, and some witnesses. The ABA will also use state-of-the-art evidence technology, which Brown says "may shed new light" on the assassination.

Oswald's personal life will also be under the microscope this fall in an NBC miniseries about Marina.

SUBJECT: TV PROGRAM; MURDER; CRIME

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HEADLINE: WAS OSWALD REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR JFK'S DEATH?

DATELINE: MENLO PARK, Calif., July 24

KEYWORD: bc-Oswald-mock-trial

BODY:

Attorneys and experts will use a combination of insightful witness questioning and high-technology to explore the question of Oswald's responsibility at the "Trial of the Century," otherwise known as "United States v. Lee Harvey Oswald". The mock trial is scheduled to be the focus of the Litigation Section's program during the American Bar Association's conference to be held in San Francisco Aug. 9-12. Failure Analysis Associates Inc. (FaAA) of Menlo Park will provide a variety of engineering, biomechanics, ballistics

and engineering-based computer animation expertise to determine the extent of Lee Harvey Oswald's involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The firm will provide expert testimony for both prosecution and defense, as well as the technical evidence to support their presentations at the mock trial scheduled for Aug. 10-11. Failure Analysis Associates is the nation's leading independent engineering and scientific firm devoted to the investigation, analysis, and prevention of accidents and failures. Robert L. Piziali, Ph.D., vice president of FaAA and manager of the biomechanics group will testify for the prosecution. The firm's chief executive officer, Roger McCarthy, Ph.D. will testify for the defense. Both will provide insight into the examination of the physical evidence supported by several months of research, testing and event reconstruction.

Spectus Technologies Inc., a subsidiary of The Failure Group, will apply the latest illustrative computer modeling and engineering animation, photographic imaging, and scene reconstruction technology to the events which transpired in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. This technology includes electronic image enhancement of the Abraham Zapruder film, reverse projection and photogrammetric techniques to locate the wound positions and three-dimensional computer-assisted visualization of the assassination scene.

The trial scenario will also feature top litigators from around the country. The government's case will be presented by three San Francisco Bay Area firms: John W. Keker, of Keker and Brockett; Joseph Cotchett of Cotchett, Illston & Pitre; James J. Brosnahan of Morrison & Foerster. Representing Lee Oswald will be Thomas Barr, a member of the Warren Commission research staff in 1964, David Boies, and Evan Chesler, all from Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York.

The reactions of the jury, shadow jury, and the panel of distinguished judges will be monitored electronically during the trial. The audience will be able to gauge the participants' reactions to the evidence and witness testimony, but none of the trial participants will know the results. The analysis of the participants' reactions will be provided by DecisionQuest, a Los Angeles-based organization which specializes in the application of behavioral science techniques to trial settings. Television coverage of the event will be provided by Court TV.

Failure Analysis Associates was founded in 1967 by five Ph.D.-level researchers, and now comprises more than 450 employees, almost 300 of whom possess degrees in their area of specialization. Failure Analysis Associates Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Failure Group Inc., with offices in nine U.S. cities and representation in Europe, Canada and the Far East. Failure Group stock is traded on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol FAIL. CONTACT: Angela Meyer or Jo Minola of the Failure Group, 415-688-7003

ORGANIZATION: The Failure Group

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