

Posner, a second generation San Franciscan who went to the University of California at Berkeley and Hastings law school, is a former Wall Street litigator who gave up the law when he got hooked on writing nonfiction. His first book in 1986 was about Josef Mengele, the Nazi fiend whose medical experiments on Jews in World War II earned him the name "Angel of Death."

A small, precise man with a neat mustache and a direct manner, Posner was unintimidated by the wealth of data, starting with the volumes of the Warren Commission, about the assassination and the later murder of Oswald by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police department.