

## Belli Files Libel Suit Against ABA President

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (AP)— Attorney Melvin M. Belli has filed a \$5,000,000 libel and slander suit against Walter E. Craig, president of the American Bar Association.

The suit charged that Craig, a 54-year-old Phoenix lawyer, made false statements about Belli in connection with Belli's defense of Jack Ruby.

The Superior Court suit named 20 codefendants, identified as "John Does," and claimed they and Craig had "sought to vilify and defame" Belli because of a "personal animus and ill will" toward him.

The suit asked for \$3,000,000 general and \$2,000,000 punitive damages.

Belli charged that remarks by Craig damaged Belli's reputation and harmed Ruby's defense and pending appeal.

The suit said Craig, who was nominated by Kennedy to a federal district court judgeship in Arizona, "should have been mindful of the impartial high post to which he has been so nominated."

Craig will assume the judgeship next month when he completes his term as president of the bar association.

He has been named by Chief Justice Earl Warren to represent Oswald's interests before the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's assassination and Oswald's slaying.