

Assassination Records Review Board
Public Hearing
April 2, 1997

List of Witnesses

Robert Brauneis

Professor Robert Brauneis teaches property law at the National Law Center of George Washington University. Professor Brauneis graduated from Harvard Law School in 1989, where he was an Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. After completing law school, he was a law clerk for then-Judge (now Supreme Court Justice) Stephen Breyer. Professor Brauneis subsequently clerked for Justice Souter. Professor Brauneis will address the constitutional and statutory implications of a taking of the Zapruder film by eminent domain.

James Lesar

James Lesar is a Washington, DC attorney and President of the Assassination Archives and Research Center. Lesar has litigated many Freedom of Information Act cases on behalf of JFK assassination researchers. He represented Chip Selby Jr., an assassination researcher in litigation seeking a superior copy of the original Zapruder film to include in "Reasonable Doubt," a documentary film.

Art Simon

Art Simon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. He holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from New York University and is the author of *Dangerous Knowledge: The JFK Assassination in Art and Film* (1995). Professor Simon has devoted considerable time to the study of the Zapruder film and has made it the centerpiece of his book.

Josiah Thompson

In 1976, after teaching philosophy at Haverford College for twelve years, Josiah Thompson changed careers (in the midst of a sabbatical) from Philosophy Professor to that of Private Investigator. He continues in that field today. His published works include *The Lonely Labyrinth: Kierkegaard's Pseudonymous Works*, *Six Seconds in Dallas* (1967), and *Gumshoe: Reflections in a Private Eye* (1988).

In September 1966, Mr. Thompson was hired as a special consultant to *Life Magazine* for an investigative project they had undertaken on the assassination. Thompson was at the same time researching his own book on the same subject. In the course of the project, Thompson gained access to *Life's* first generation copy of the Zapruder film (along with their 4" X 5" color slides of

each frame of the movie) and became, arguably, the preeminent expert during the late 1960s and early 1970s on the contents of the Zapruder film. Thompson had wanted to include reproductions of frames of the Zapruder film as illustrations in his book. Time-Life refused permission and later sued to stop publication when Thompson included tracings (charcoal drawings) of the film frames as substitutes for photographic reproductions. Thompson's publisher, Bernard Geis, prevailed, and the book was published in autumn 1967.

Richard Trask

Richard Trask is the author of *Pictures of the Pain: Photography and the Assassination of President Kennedy*, published in 1994, an exhaustive study of the photographic history of the assassination. *Pictures of the Pain* is a detailed account of all of the photography (moving and still) taken before, during, and after the assassination. Trask provides an account of the photographer, the camera, and the circumstances surrounding the taking of each photograph and movie. A significant section of Trask's book is devoted to the Zapruder film. Virtually every aspect of the film is discussed, including what it depicts, what happened to it after the assassination, and issues related to its authenticity.

Moses Weitzman

Mr. Moses Weitzman is a recognized film expert who only recently retired from private industry. His areas of specialty included quality control in commercial 16 mm format black-and-white film processing, 8 mm color film processing, and film special effects processing. Mr. Weitzman pioneered the direct transfer of 8 mm motion picture images to 35 mm format, and the commercial film companies which he founded have been involved in the technical aspects of the production (special effects) of many Hollywood motion pictures.

In 1967 the Oxberry Company (manufacturers of optical printers) recommended Mr. Weitzman to *Time-Life* as an expert in 8 mm color motion pictures, because he had developed the technological capability to enlarge and copy 8 mm format movies directly to a 35 mm format, without any intermediary steps. *Time-Life* hired Mr. Weitzman to enlarge the original Zapruder film directly from its 8 mm original format to 35 mm format, for potential use in a major documentary product on the Kennedy assassination. Mr. Weitzman made several 35 mm Zapruder products for *Time-Life*. About 1975, he again enlarged the Zapruder film for one of the 3 major television networks, directly from 8 mm to 35 mm format. He was able to closely observe the original film's condition in both 1967, and 1975.