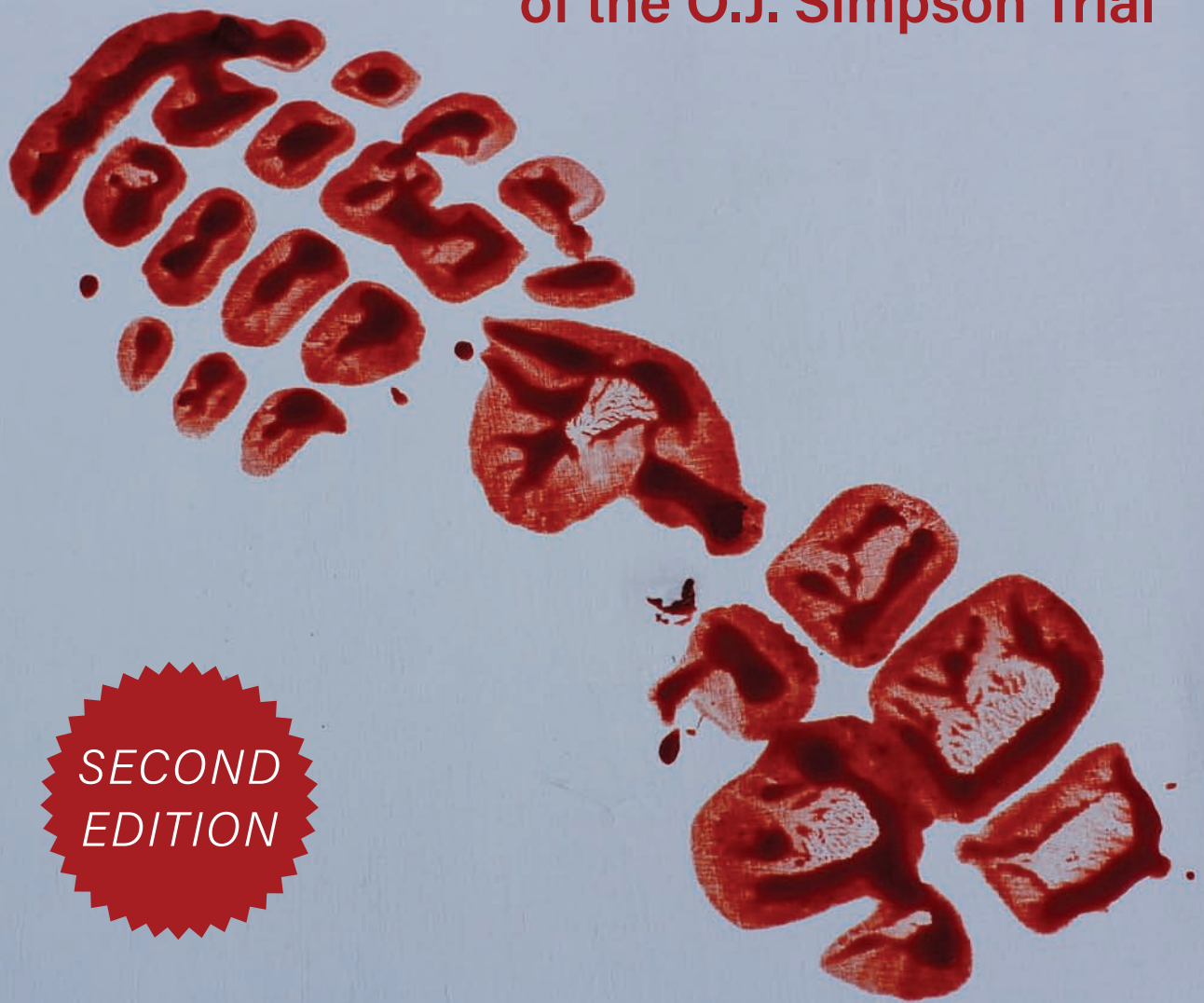
"ABSOLUTELY 100% NOT GUILTY"

A Contemporary Case Study of the O.J. Simpson Trial



SECOND EDITION

Frank Schmalleger • Jennifer L. Moore

“ABSOLUTELY 100% NOT GUILTY”

“ABSOLUTELY 100% NOT GUILTY”

A Contemporary Case Study of the O.J. Simpson Trial

Frank Schmalleger and Jennifer L. Moore

cognella®
SAN DIEGO

Bassim Hamadeh, CEO and Publisher
Carolyn Meier, Publisher
Zoe Flores, Project Editor
Jeanine Rees, Production Editor
Jess Estrella, Senior Graphic Designer
JoHannah McDonald, Licensing Coordinator
Natalie Piccotti, Director of Marketing
Kassie Graves, Senior Vice President, Editorial
Alia Bales, Director, Project Editorial and Production

Copyright © 2025 by Cognella, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, or utilized in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying, microfilming, and recording, or in any information retrieval system without the written permission of Cognella, Inc. For inquiries regarding permissions, translations, foreign rights, audio rights, and any other forms of reproduction, please contact the Cognella Licensing Department at rights@cognella.com.

This Material was previously published by Pearson Education, Inc.

Trial transcripts and court documents copyright © by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

Disclaimer: The court records presented in this textbook are for educational and informational purposes only. Cognella, Inc. does not own the rights to these records. The views and opinions expressed in this textbook are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cognella, Inc.

Trademark Notice: Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

Cover image copyright © 2017 iStockphoto LP/LaVonna Moore.

Printed in the United States of America.

cognella® | ACADEMIC PUBLISHING
320 South Cedros Ave., Ste. 400, Solana Beach, CA 92075

For Devin.
—Frank Schmalleger

For my parents, Wayne and Rose Prusik.
—Jennifer Moore

BRIEF CONTENTS

Preface xiii

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION 1

CHAPTER 1 THE CRIME 3

CHAPTER 2 THE VENUE 17

PART 2: THE PEOPLE 27

CHAPTER 3 KEY GOVERNMENT ACTORS 29

CHAPTER 4 OTHER RELEVANT ACTORS 41

PART 3: THE PROCESS 53

CHAPTER 5 ARREST AND PRETRIAL 55

CHAPTER 6 THE TRIAL BEGINS: OPENING STATEMENTS 75

CHAPTER 7 PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE: THE PROSECUTION WITNESSES 99

CHAPTER 8 WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE AND JURY INSTRUCTIONS 125

CHAPTER 9 THE PROSECUTION'S CLOSING ARGUMENTS 145

CHAPTER 10 DEFENSE CLOSING ARGUMENTS 167

CHAPTER 11 DELIBERATIONS AND VERDICT 187

CHAPTER 12 THE AFTERMATH 201

Appendix A: The Witness List 213
Appendix B: Letter Said to Be from Nicole to O.J. 219
Appendix C: Official Autopsy Report on Nicole Brown Simpson 221
Appendix D: Official Autopsy Report on Ronald Goldman 229
Appendix E: List of Evidence Taken from O.J. Simpson's Estate 241
Glossary 245
Index 249

DETAILED CONTENTS

Preface xiii

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION 1

CHAPTER 1 THE CRIME 3

A. The Background: Mr. and Mrs. Orenthal James Simpson 3
1. A Call for Help 5
B. Double Homicide 12
1. Crime Chronology: June 12–13, 1994 13
Notes 16
Credits 16

CHAPTER 2 THE VENUE 17

A. Federal versus State Courts 17
1. The California State Court System 19
B. The O.J. Simpson Trial 21
1. The Central District 22
Notes 24
Credits 25

PART 2: THE PEOPLE 27

CHAPTER 3 KEY GOVERNMENT ACTORS 29

A. The Police 31
B. The Judge 32
C. The Prosecuting Attorney 33
1. The Ethics of Prosecution 35
D. Defense Counsel 35
1. O.J. Simpson's Defense Team 36
2. The Ethics of Defense 37
Notes 39
Credits 39

CHAPTER 4 OTHER RELEVANT ACTORS 41

A. The Courtroom Work Group 41
1. The Bailiff 41
2. The Court Reporter 41
3. Clerk of Court 42
B. Expert Witnesses 42
1. DNA Wars 43
C. Lay Witnesses 45
D. Jurors 46
E. The Role of the Victim in a Criminal Trial 47
F. The Role of the Defendant in a Criminal Trial 48
G. The Press in the Courtroom 49
Notes 51
Credits 52

PART 3: THE PROCESS 53

CHAPTER 5 ARREST AND PRETRIAL 55

A. Investigation and Arrest 55
1. Interrogation by the LAPD 55
2. O.J. Simpson's "Goodbye Letter" 58
3. The White Ford Bronco 60
B. Preliminary Hearing 61
C. Jury Selection 63
1. The Jury Questionnaire 64
2. Judge Ito's Instructions to the Jury at the Start of the Trial 67
Notes 73
Credits 74

CHAPTER 6 THE TRIAL BEGINS: OPENING STATEMENTS 75

A. The Adversarial Nature of a Criminal Trial 75
B. Stages of a Criminal Trial 76
C. Trial Initiation: Speedy Trial Requirements 77
D. Opening Statements 78
1. The Prosecution's Opening Statement 78
2. The Defense's Opening Statement 88
Notes 97
Credits 97

CHAPTER 7 PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE: THE PROSECUTION WITNESSES 99

A. A History of Domestic Violence 100
B. June 12, 1994, and the LAPD 106
C. The Rockingham Witnesses 111
D. Scientific Evidence 120
Notes 124
Credits 124

CHAPTER 8 WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE AND JURY INSTRUCTIONS 125

A. First Defense Witnesses: Simpson's Inner Circle 126
B. The Defense Experts 127
C. Fuhrman's Racist Remarks 129
D. Rebuttal and Rejoinder 136
E. Simpson Waives His Right to Testify 138
F. Judge Ito's Closing Instructions to the Jury 139
Credits 144

CHAPTER 9 THE PROSECUTION'S CLOSING ARGUMENTS 145

A. The Prosecution's Summation by Marcia Clark 146
B. The Prosecution's Summation by Christopher Darden 160
Credits 165

CHAPTER 10 DEFENSE CLOSING ARGUMENTS 167

A. The Defense Summation 167
B. Barry Scheck Tackles the Scientific Evidence 178
C. Johnnie Cochran Has the Last Word 181
D. The Prosecution's Rebuttal 183
Credits 186

CHAPTER 11 DELIBERATIONS AND VERDICT 187

A. Jury Deliberation and Verdict 187
1. Judgment Day 188
2. Inside the Jury Room 192
B. Immediate Reactions to the Verdict 193
C. The Verdict and Race 196
D. Commentary from the Fraternal Order of Police 196
E. The Jury System 197
Notes 198
Credits 199

CHAPTER 12 THE AFTERMATH 201

A. The Civil Suit 201
B. "If I Did It" 206
C. O.J. Simpson Back on Trial 207
D. Where Are They Now? 209
Notes 211
Credits 212

Appendix A: The Witness List 213
Appendix B: Letter Said to Be from Nicole to O.J. 219
Appendix C: Official Autopsy Report on Nicole Brown Simpson 221
Appendix D: Official Autopsy Report on Ronald Goldman 229
Appendix E: List of Evidence Taken from O.J. Simpson's Estate 241
Glossary 245
Index 249

WEB-BASED RESOURCES: ACCESSING QR CODES AND LINKS

The author has selected some supporting web-based content for further engagement with the learning material that appears in this text, which can be accessed through QR codes or web links. These codes are intended for use by those who have purchased print copies of the book. You may scan them using a QR code reading app on your cell phone, which will take you to each website. You can also search for the link using a web browser search engine. Readers who have purchased a digital copy of the book can simply click on the hyperlinks beneath each QR code.

Cognella maintains no responsibility for the content nor availability of third-party links. However, Cognella makes every effort to keep its texts current. Broken links may be reported to studentreviews@cognella.com. Please include the book's title, author, and 7-digit SKU reference number (found below the barcode on the back cover of the book) in the body of your message.

Please check with your professor to confirm whether your class will access this content independently or collectively.



PREFACE

At his arraignment in 1994, O.J. Simpson famously pleaded "absolutely, 100% not guilty" to double homicide charges. Nearly 30 years after the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, the O.J. Simpson trial remains a fixture in popular culture. In 1995, the trial flashed across television screens, radio dials, newspapers, and magazines across the country with unprecedented media interest. It became one of the first reality television shows that captivated the nation, where the lawyers and witnesses became household names. This book is a contemporary case study that exposes a new generation to the inner workings of the criminal justice system, complete with drama, intrigue, scandal, and injustice.

The Simpson trial was one of the best-documented criminal proceedings in history, producing more than 40,000 pages of transcribed materials and countless other pages of commentary and analysis. As such, it provides a unique opportunity to explore the workings of the criminal justice system, especially (1) trial practice, (2) law enforcement investigative activities, (3) scientific evidence gathering and analysis, (4) tactics available to criminal defense attorneys, (5) challenges facing prosecutors, and (6) the everyday realities of American criminal justice practice. As a case study ideal for courses on the US court system, criminal law, and procedure, or trial by jury, this book makes liberal use of the actual trial transcripts to highlight key witnesses and statements by the attorneys in their own words.

The "trial of the century" also provided an intense and informative look into the psyche of American society, highlighting divergent attitudes based on class, race, and ethnicity. This book addresses the critical impact that fame, wealth, and race had on the proceedings throughout the chapters. The Simpson trial shaped perceptions of justice in America that are still relevant today.

New to the Second Edition

Immediately after the conclusion of the infamous O.J. Simpson murder trial, Dr. Frank Schmalleger authored a text that profiled the dramatic "trial of the century" in vivid detail. After 30 years, this second edition significantly edits and reorganizes the book. Specifically, the trial transcripts are condensed, now including author commentary and embedded video links to take the reader inside the courtroom. The second edition also includes a new chapter, "The Venue," exploring the structure of the California state court system and analyzing the key decision to try the case in Los Angeles County instead of Santa Monica. A final "Aftermath" chapter is included in the second edition, which explains the events immediately after the shocking "not guilty" verdict until Simpson's death in 2024. Furthermore, a glossary of key terms is now found at the end of the book to assist with explaining the criminal justice system.

In each chapter, this edition includes "Jury Box" features that put the reader in the role of a Simpson juror and promote discussion. The jurors are asked to confront difficult questions regarding the behavior of the Los Angeles Police Department, the validity of scientific evidence, the role of domestic violence, the impact of the media, and many other complex issues. Additional instructor resources are also available to help integrate the O.J. Simpson trial into the modern classroom.

PART I

THE FOUNDATION

CHAPTER 1

THE CRIME

In the early morning hours of June 13, 1994, a barking dog with blood on its paws led neighbors to discover two bodies in West Los Angeles. Dead was the ex-wife of Heisman Trophy winner and football great Orenthal James Simpson, Nicole Brown Simpson. Killed along with her in a savage knife attack was Ronald Goldman, a waiter and aspiring young actor. The murders occurred at 875 South Bundy Drive, in the exclusive Brentwood section of Los Angeles. Police investigators quickly found enough evidence to focus on O.J. Simpson as their only suspect. Numerous prior incidents of spousal abuse involving Simpson and blood evidence convinced the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) that they "had their man."



IMG 1.1

O.J. and Nicole Brown Simpson.

A. The Background: Mr. and Mrs. Orenthal James Simpson

Orenthal James Simpson was born on July 9, 1947, in San Francisco, California to Jimmie and Eunice Durden Simpson. One of four children, Simpson had a brother, Melvin, and two sisters, Shirley and Carmelita. He was raised in the low-income Potrero Hills district and joined the Persian Warriors gang at the age of 13. He spent a short time incarcerated at the San Francisco Youth Guidance Center. Simpson graduated from San Francisco's Galileo High School, but his poor grades prevented him from playing football at a major college or university. He entered San Francisco City College, and on June 24, 1967, while still a student, Simpson married 18-year-old Marguerite Whitley. Simpson rose to football fame as a two-time All-American halfback for the University of Southern California Trojans. Wearing "32" on his jersey, O.J. Simpson won the Heisman Trophy in 1969 and was drafted in the first round by the Buffalo Bills.

Affectionately known as "the Juice," Simpson went on to a professional career in the National Football League with the Buffalo Bills and the San Francisco 49ers. In 1973, the offensive line of the Buffalo Bills, known as the "Electric Company," turned on "the Juice," and he rushed for a record-setting 2,000 yards. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985. After two decades on the football field, O.J. signed a contract with Hertz rental cars, becoming a national spokesman for the company. He also made promotional appearances for Nabisco Brands, Wilson Sporting Goods, Treesweet, and Dingo Boots. Simpson's celebrity status was solidified by numerous television appearances as a sports commentator for ABC and NBC, on talk shows, and in bit roles in several movies, including *Towering Inferno, The Clansman, Killer Force, Capricorn I, Firepower,* and various episodes of *Naked Gun* and the HBO series *First and Ten*. Both on camera and in the public eye, O.J. Simpson was renowned for his good spirits and caring attitude. He signed autographs with consistently good humor, regularly visited the sick and terminally ill in hospitals, and joked with nervous youngsters who wanted to meet him. A news report profiling Simpson's career as a spokesperson and actor can be viewed here:



IMG 1.2

O.J. Simpson in his early days of football stardom, when he was known as "The Juice."

Nicole Brown Simpson was born in Frankfurt, Germany, on May 19, 1959, to Lou and Judy Brown. Her mother was a native-born German who married Lou Brown while he was stationed in West Germany as a correspondent for the armed forces newspaper *Stars and Stripes*. Returning to the United States, the Brown family settled in Garden Grove, California, where Nicole and her two sisters grew up surrounded by middle-class activities in Brownies, Girl Scouts, and dance lessons. Nicole was known

to family and friends as a "kind of wild, free spirit who had a zest for life." She won a crown as homecoming princess at Dana Hills High School.

Describing Nicole, a broadcasting friend of O.J.'s said, "She was a dramatic person. A person with physical electricity. A dramatic physical presence. If you ask me whether she was beautiful, I'd say no, she was not beautiful. If you ask me whether she was elegant, I'd say not necessarily. She had an electric physical presence. As for her personality, she had some vivacity, some spirit about her that was just there. If you were in a roomful of people, your eye turned to Nicole. There was something unusual about her. She was a willful, spirited person—a party animal. She loved to say, 'I want to go dance all night.'"[1]

In 1977, while working as a waitress at a posh Beverly Hills nightclub called the *Daisy*, she met O.J. Simpson. Though still married to his first wife, Simpson had a reputation as a lady's man with a penchant for young, beautiful women. Nicole had just turned 18. In 1985, she and O.J. married in a splashy affair at his Tudor home in Brentwood. After they were married, the two had all the trappings wealth could bring, including homes in Laguna Beach, California, and New York City, plus a personal fleet of Rolls-Royces, Ferraris, and other luxury cars. They took frequent and expensive trips to Mexico and Aspen, and Nicole once said that O.J. regularly gave her $6,000 a month in spending money.

She related well to O.J.'s children from his first marriage, daughter Arnelle and son Jason, both of whom were teenagers when O.J. and Nicole married. She gave birth to her own children, Sydney Brook Simpson (born October 17, 1985) and Justin Ryan Simpson (born August 6, 1988). Not long after the birth of their second child, however, the Simpsons' marriage began to fray, and Nicole was the victim of domestic abuse. In 1985, the LAPD arrived at the Simpson home to find O.J. had smashed in the windshield of Nicole's Mercedes Benz. Notably, Detective Mark Fuhrman, who is a central figure in the double homicide trial, responded to the call. Nicole chose not to press charges against O.J., and the pattern of abuse continued. Beverly Hills lunchgoers at the LaScala restaurant watched a public confrontation between the couple when Nicole accused O.J. of having an affair in 1989. One observer noted, "We were just walking. The next thing you know out she comes, out of the blue, flipping out, screaming, 'If you're going to {expletive} cheat on me, why don't you pick somebody who's pretty? She's a {expletive} ugly dog.'"[2] When a Beverly Hills police officer arrived, Nicole drove away.

1. A Call for Help

On January 1, 1989, Nicole called Los Angeles 911 dispatchers at 3:30 a.m., saying Simpson was attacking her. He was allegedly screaming, "I'll kill you," as he beat her. The police report stated that Nicole rushed outside toward the police officer, yelling, "He's going to kill me, he's going to kill me. You never do anything about him; you talk to him and then leave."[3] Simpson pled no contest to charges of spousal abuse and was sentenced on May 24, 1989, to two years of probation and 120 hours of community service. He was also fined $470, ordered to pay $500 to the Sojourn Battered Women's Program, and assigned to counseling.

On February 6, 1992, Nicole and O.J. officially separated, and on February 25, 1992, Nicole filed for divorce. Under terms of the divorce settlement, Nicole received a $700,000 condominium in the exclusive Brentwood section of Los Angeles, one of the couple's Ferraris, jewelry, a lump sum of $433,000, tax-free, and $10,000 a month in child support. Nicole started dating after the divorce was finalized, but Simpson became wildly jealous, and in 1993, the two reconciled. In October 1993, the police were again called to a violent interaction between O.J. and Nicole.

Reproduced below are excerpts from the transcripts of two "911" calls Nicole Brown Simpson made to police on October 25, 1993. The first call began at 21:43:42 and lasted one minute and four seconds. A few minutes later, Nicole called back. The second call lasted 13 minutes and 34 seconds. Police released transcripts of the calls to the press on June 22, 1994.[4]

Nicole: Can you send someone to my house?

Dispatcher: What's the problem there?

Nicole: My husband—or ex-husband—has just broken into my house, and he's ranting and raving outside in the front yard.

Dispatcher: Has he been drinking or anything?

Nicole: No. But he's crazy.

Dispatcher: Did he hit you?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: Do you have a restraining order against him?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: What's your name?

Nicole: Nicole Simpson.

Dispatcher: And your address?

Nicole: 325 Gretna Green Way.

Dispatcher: Is that a house or an apartment?

Nicole: It's a house.

Dispatcher: Okay, we'll send the police out.

Nicole: Thank you.

Dispatcher: Uh-huh.

The dispatcher sends out a domestic violence call for any car patrolling the area to respond to Nicole Brown Simpson's address at Gretna Green. At 21:53:58, Nicole Brown Simpson called back. You can listen to a portion of that call here:

O.J. Simpson's voice is heard in the recording screaming at Nicole. He references Keith, a former boyfriend of Nicole, during the encounter. Below is a transcript of Nicole's second call with 911.

Nicole: Could you get somebody over here now, to 325 Gretna Green. He's back. Please.

Dispatcher: What does he look like?

Copyright © 1994 by State of California.

Nicole: He's O.J. Simpson. I think you know his record. Just send somebody over.

Dispatcher: What is he doing there?

Nicole: He just drove up again. (She begins to cry.) Could you just send somebody over?

Dispatcher: Wait a minute. What kind of car is he in?

Nicole: He's in a white Bronco, but first of all he broke the back door down to get in.

Dispatcher: Wait a minute. What's your name?

Nicole: Nicole Simpson.

Dispatcher: OK, is he the sportscaster or whatever?

Nicole: Yeah. Thank you.

Dispatcher: Wait a minute, we're sending police. What is he doing? Is he threatening you?

Nicole: He's [expletive] going nuts (sobs).

Dispatcher: Has he threatened you in any way, or is he just harassing you?

Nicole: (Sighs) You're going to hear him in a minute. He's about to come in again.

Dispatcher: OK, just stay on the line …

Nicole: I don't want to stay on the line. He's going to beat the s*** out of me.

Dispatcher: Wait a minute, just stay on the line so we can know what's going on until the police get there, OK? OK, Nicole?

Nicole: Uh-huh.

Dispatcher: Just a moment. Does he have any weapons?

Nicole: I don't know (exasperated). He went home, and he came back. The kids are up there sleeping, and I don't want anything to happen.

Dispatcher: OK, just a minute. Is he on drugs or anything?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: Just stay on the line. Just in case he comes in I need to hear what's going on, all right?

Nicole: Can you hear him outside?

Dispatcher: Is he yelling?

Nicole: Yep.

Dispatcher: OK. Has he been drinking?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: OK. (Speaking over radio to police units.) All units: additional on domestic violence, 325 South Gretna Green Way, the suspect has returned in a white Bronco. Monitor comments. Incident 48231.

Dispatcher: OK, Nicole?

Nicole: Uh-huh.

Dispatcher: Is he outdoors?

Nicole: Uh-huh, he's in the backyard.

Dispatcher: He's in the backyard?

Nicole: Screaming at my roommate about me and at me here.

Dispatcher: OK. What is he saying?

Nicole: Oh, something about some guy I know and hookers and Keith and I started this s*** before and …

Dispatcher: Um-hum.

Nicole: And it's all my fault and "Now what am I going to do." "Get the police in this" and the whole thing. It's all my fault; I started this before (sigh). Brother (inaudible). Kids (inaudible).

Dispatcher: OK, has he hit you today or … ?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: OK, you don't need any paramedics or anything.

Nicole: Uh-uh.

Dispatcher: OK, you just want him to leave?

Nicole: My door. He broke the whole back door in.

Dispatcher: And then he left, and he came back?

Nicole: Then he came, and he practically knocked my upstairs door down, but he pounded it, and he screamed and hollered, and I tried to get him out of the bedroom because the kids are sleeping in there.

Dispatcher: Um-hum. OK.

Nicole: And then he wanted somebody's phone number, and I gave him my phone book, or I put my phone book down to write down the phone number that he wanted, and then he took my phone book with all my stuff in it.

Dispatcher: OK. So basically you guys have just been arguing?

O.J.: O.J. works his ass off for this family. For Keith. A drug addict whose f*ing girlfriend is a Heidi Fleiss girl. For Keith (inaudible).

Dispatcher: Is he inside right now?

Nicole: Yeah.

Dispatcher: OK, just a moment.

O.J.: Do you understand me (inaudible)? Keith is a nothing. A skunk, and he still calls me. (inaudible). So I told him, "Look, you don't want that s***" (inaudible).

Dispatcher: Is he talking to you?

Nicole: Yeah.

Dispatcher: Are you locked in a room or something?

Nicole: No. He can come right in. I'm not going where the kids are because the kids (voice trails off).

Dispatcher: Do you think he's going to hit you?

Nicole: I don't know.

Dispatcher: Stay on the line. Don't hang it up, OK?

Nicole: OK.

(inaudible)

Dispatcher: What is he saying?

Nicole: What?

Dispatcher: What is he saying?

Nicole: (Sighs) What else?

O.J.: (Inaudible) You like a damn queen bee. I asked you tonight (inaudible) … I come in this f***ing house tonight (inaudible).

(Sound of police radio traffic.)

Nicole: O.J.! O.J.! The kids are sleeping.

O.J.: You didn't give a s*** about the damn kids when you were s***ing his d*** in the living room. They were here. Did you care about the kids then? Oh, it's different now. I'm talking, and you're doing fine. You go and shake your head. You're doing fine, Nicole.

Dispatcher: He's still yelling at you?

O.J.: (Inaudible)

Nicole: (Sobbing into telephone.)

Dispatcher: Just stay on the line, OK?

(More yelling.)

Dispatcher: ls he upset with something that you did?

Nicole: (Sobs) A long time ago. It always comes back.

(More yelling.)

Dispatcher: Is your roommate talking to him?

Nicole: No, who can talk? Listen to him.

Dispatcher: I know. Does he have any weapons with him right now?

Nicole: No, uh-uh.

Dispatcher: OK. Where is he standing?

Nicole: In the back doorway, in the house.

Dispatcher: OK.

O.J.: I don't give a s*** anymore. … That wife of his, she took so much for this mother****** (inaudible).

Nicole: Would you just please, O.J., O.J., O.J., O.J., could you please (inaudible). Please leave.

O.J.: I'm leaving with my two f***ing fists is when I'm leaving. You ain't got to worry about me anymore.

Nicole: Please leave. O.J. Please, the kids, the kids (inaudible) please.

Dispatcher: Is he leaving?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: Does he know you're on the phone with police?

Nicole: No.

Dispatcher: OK. Where are the kids at right now?

Nicole: Up in my room.

Dispatcher: Can they hear him yelling?

Nicole: I don't know. The room's the only one that's quiet. … God.

Dispatcher: Is there someone up there with the kids?

Nicole: No.

(Yelling continues in the background.)

Dispatcher: What is he saying now? Nicole? You still on the line?

Nicole: Yeah.

Dispatcher: You think he's still going to hit you?

O.J.: Keith.

Nicole: I don't know. He's going to leave. He just said that. He just said he ain't leaving.

O.J.: You're not leaving when I'm gone. Hey! I have to read this bull all week in the National Enquirer. Her words exactly. What, who got that, who (inaudible)?

Dispatcher: Are you the only one in there with him?

Nicole: Right now, yeah.

Dispatcher. And he's talking to you?

Nicole: Yeah, and he's also talking to my, the guy who lives out back is just standing there. He just came home.

Dispatcher. Is he arguing with him too?

Nicole: No. Absolutely not.

Dispatcher. Oh, OK.

Nicole: Nobody's arguing.

Dispatcher: Yeah. Has this happened before or no?

Nicole: Many times.

Dispatcher: OK. The police should be on the way; it just seems like a long time because it's kind of busy in that division right now. (Yelling continues.)

Dispatcher to police: Regarding Gretna Green Way, the suspect is still there and yelling very loudly.

Police Officer on radio: 52 on Greta Green.

Dispatcher: Is he still arguing?

(Knock at the door.)

Dispatcher: Was someone knocking on your door?

Nicole: It was him.

Dispatcher: He was knocking on your door?

Nicole: There's a locked bedroom, and he's wondering why.

Dispatcher: Oh. He's knocking on the locked door?

Nicole: Yeah. You know what, O.J.? That window above you is also open. Could you just go, please? Can I get off the phone?

Dispatcher: You want, you feel safe hanging up?

Nicole: Well, you're right.

Dispatcher: You want to wait until the police get there?

Nicole: Yeah.

Dispatcher: Nicole?

Nicole: Um-hmm.

Dispatcher: Is he still arguing with you?

Nicole: Um-hum.

Dispatcher: He's moved a little?

Nicole: But I'm just ignoring him.

Dispatcher: Okay. But he doesn't know you're …

Nicole: It works best.

Dispatcher: Okay. Are the kids still asleep?

Nicole: Yes. They're like rocks.

Dispatcher: What part of the house is he in right now?

Nicole: Downstairs.

Dispatcher: Downstairs?

Nicole: Yes.

Dispatcher: And you're upstairs?

Nicole: No, I'm downstairs in the kitchen.

O.J.: (Inaudible yelling) I tried my damn best. I ain't putting up with no f***ing (inaudible).

Dispatcher: Do you see the police, Nicole?

Nicole: No, but I will go out there right now.

Dispatcher: OK, you want to go out there?

Nicole: Yeah.

Dispatcher: OK.

Nicole: I'm going to hang up.

Dispatcher: OK.

After the police arrived, O.J. Simpson admitted he broke the door and took responsibility for replacing it. Nicole refused to press charges against O.J. for the incident.

B. Double Homicide

At 12:10 a.m. on the morning of June 13, 1994, the slashed and bloodied bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were discovered in the gated courtyard leading to Ms. Simpson's expensive townhome in the exclusive Brentwood section of Los Angeles (referred to throughout the trial and book as "Bundy"). The murder scene was gruesome, with Nicole Brown Simpson stabbed 12 times, including seven wounds to the neck and scalp. Nicole's throat was slashed with a 5.5. inch slit, severing



IMG 1.3

The bloody walkway at Nicole Brown Simpson's residence following her murder.

both carotid arteries and breaching her jugular veins. Ronald Goldman attempted to resist the attacker, suffering defensive wounds as he was also stabbed multiple times.

See the official autopsy reports for Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman in Appendix C and Appendix D.

JURY BOX: A GRUESOME MURDER SCENE

Along with the rest of the world, potential jurors are exposed to shocking images and descriptions from the bloody crime scene at 875 South Bundy Drive. The double homicide is particularly shocking to the American public in June 1994, when crime scene television shows and movies are less common. The news media coverage is constant, and the nation is transfixed. As a potential juror in the case, are you able to effectively review the crime scene photos and other gory details? And listen to the detailed testimony of the coroner and other expert witnesses? Or do the horrific details of the crime make it a challenge to remain neutral?

1. Crime Chronology: June 12–13, 1994

Although no one witnessed the murders take place, the following chronology of events can be pieced together from witness testimony and other physical evidence (all hours shown are approximate based on Pacific Standard Time):

June 12, 1994

9 a.m. O.J. Simpson played golf at the Riviera Country Club outside Los Angeles.

2:30 p.m. Brian "Kato" Kaelin, a friend who is living temporarily in O.J. Simpson's guest house, sees Simpson at home for the first time that day. He and Simpson discuss Simpson's morning golf game.

4 p.m. O.J. and ex-wife Nicole attend daughter Sydney's dance recital at Paul Revere Junior High School in West Los Angeles but sit apart.

6 p.m. Simpson and Nicole leave the dance recital separately.

6:30 p.m. Nicole goes to the Mezzaluna restaurant with her children and a few friends for dinner. Waiter Ronald Goldman is working in the restaurant, but he doesn't serve the group. O.J. is not with the dinner party.

6:30–7 p.m. Kato Kaelin sees and talks with O.J. at his Rockingham estate in Brentwood (O.J.'s home is referred to throughout the trial and book simply as "Rockingham") after a televised basketball game between the Houston Rockets and the New York Knicks.

8:30 p.m. Kaelin leaves the jacuzzi located on the Simpson estate and walks to his room to place a telephone call.

8:30–9 p.m. Nicole Brown Simpson leaves the Mezzaluna restaurant.

9:15–9:40 p.m. Kaelin and Simpson visit a local McDonald's restaurant, driving there and returning in Simpson's Rolls-Royce.

9:33 p.m. Ronald Goldman clocks out of the Mezzaluna Restaurant and has a quick drink in the restaurant's bar before leaving.

9:37 p.m. Juditha Brown, Nicole's mother, telephones the Mezzaluna restaurant to say that she had left a pair of prescription sunglasses behind. Waiter Ronald Goldman offers to return them to Nicole Brown Simpson. Glasses are placed in an envelope by the restaurant's manager and given to Goldman.

10:00–10:15 p.m. Somewhere around this time, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are stabbed to death in the courtyard outside of the front entrance to Ms. Simpson's home.

10:15–10:20 p.m. Ms. Simpson's neighbor hears a dog's "plaintive wail."

10:22 p.m. Limousine driver Allan Park arrives at Rockingham to take Simpson to the airport for a flight to Chicago and does not see a white Ford Bronco parked at the residence.

10:40 p.m. On the telephone in the guest house, Kaelin hears a thumping noise against the outside wall of his room. At the same time, the limousine driver continues to buzz the house using the intercom but receives no answer.

10:41–10:45 p.m. Kaelin walks outside the guest house to investigate the noise. It is dark, and he sees nothing nearby. He does, however, notice the limousine waiting outside the gate.

10:43 p.m. Allan Park calls his boss's pager since no one answered the intercom at Rockingham.

Park's boss contacts him a few minutes later and instructs him to keep waiting.

10:50–10:55 p.m. A neighbor who is out walking his dog encounters Ms. Simpson's unattended white Akita dog, which is barking and seems to have blood on its paws.

10:54–10:56 p.m. Still waiting at Rockingham, Allan Park sees a white male carrying a flashlight (later determined to be Kato Kaelin). About the same time, he sees a 6-foot-tall, 200-pound Black person wearing dark clothes quickly cross the driveway and enter the house through the front door. Allan Park again buzzes the house, and someone, apparently Simpson, answers to say that he will be coming out shortly.

About 11:01 p.m. Simpson comes out of his house, speaks with the limousine driver, and helps load luggage into the trunk.

About 11:15 p.m. Simpson leaves Rockingham in the limousine, headed for the Los Angeles airport.

11:35 p.m. Simpson arrives at the Los Angeles airport.

11:45 p.m. American Airlines Flight 668 to Chicago leaves with Simpson on board.

June 13, 1994

12:01 a.m. Neighbors who had Nicole's Akita "let the dog lead us."

12:10 a.m. The dog leads neighbors to Ms. Simpson's exclusive condominium on Bundy Drive, where the bodies of Ms. Simpson and Ronald Goldman are discovered.

12:20 a.m. Police are called to the murder scene.

4:15 a.m. Simpson checks into the O'Hare Plaza Hotel in Chicago.

4:35 a.m. Determining the identity of Nicole Brown Simpson, police investigators go to find O.J. at Rockingham, which is located two miles from the murder scene. They intend to advise him of the death of his ex-wife. Finding no one at home, they scale the gates of the estate, later saying that they feared someone inside might be injured. They then discover a trail of blood leading from Simpson's

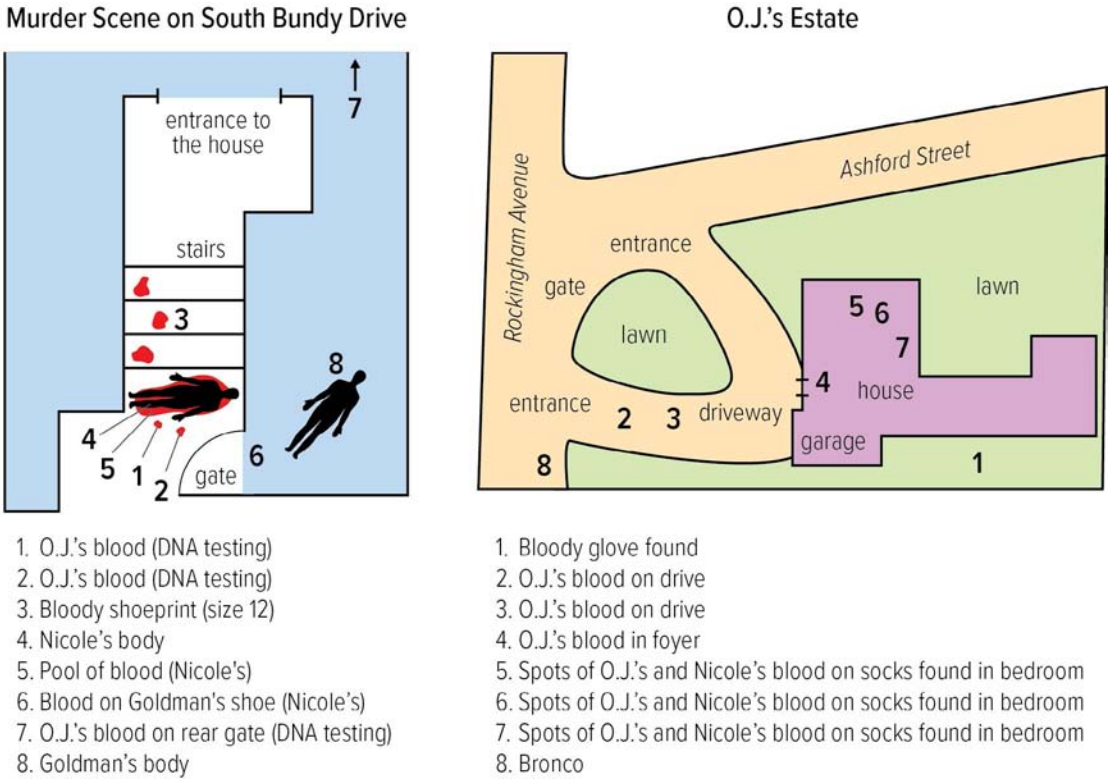


FIGURE 1.1 The location of evidence found at the murder scene and O.J. Simpsons's estate.

Ford Bronco to the front door. Investigators also find a sleeping Kato Kaelin and a bloody glove near Kaelin's guest room, which matches one found lying at Goldman's feet.

5:00 a.m. A Los Angeles police officer telephones Simpson, telling him that his ex-wife has been murdered. Immediately afterward, O.J. makes ten calls from his hotel room. At least one is placed to a woman whom he had recently been dating.

6:30 a.m. An apparently frantic O.J. checks out of the hotel and rushes back to the Chicago airport.

7:41 a.m. Simpson begins the flight back to Los Angeles.

10:45 a.m. Police obtain a search warrant for Simpson's Rockingham estate. Shortly afterward, they enter the home and find more blood in various areas of the house and in his Ford Bronco.

With facts resembling a cinematic thriller, the scene is set for the "trial of the century." Before the first witnesses are called, we explore the California court system that conducted the famous murder trial (Chapter 2) and the various actors who became household names in the mid-1990s (Chapters 3 and 4). Next, we examine the investigation and arrest of O.J. Simpson, along with various pretrial activities (Chapter 5).

The murder trial lasted for months, with over 100 witnesses called. The following feature highlights some of the key dates to keep in mind as you follow the steps of O.J. Simpson through the criminal justice system.

KEY DATES IN THE "TRIAL OF THE CENTURY"

February 2, 1985: O.J. Simpson and Nicole Brown are married

January 1, 1989: Police respond to a domestic dispute call between Simpson and Brown, with Simpson later pleading "no contest" to charges of spousal abuse

October 15, 1992: O.J. Simpson and Nicole Brown Simpson's divorce finalized

October 25, 1993: Police respond to a "911" call made by Nicole against Simpson

June 12, 1994: Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are brutally murdered at Bundy

June 17, 1994: After the "low-speed chase" in the white Ford Bronco, Simpson is arrested

July 8, 1994: A preliminary hearing determines there is sufficient evidence for Simpson's case to proceed to trial

November 3, 1994: Jury selection is complete

January 24, 1995: The "trial of the century" begins with opening statements by the prosecution

February 12, 1995: The jury is taken to key locations, including Bundy and Rockingham

June 15, 1995: Simpson tries on the "bloody gloves" in court, and they do not fit

September 28, 1995: The trial concludes with closing arguments from the defense

October 3, 1995: Not guilty verdict is announced

Notes

1. Richard Hoffer, "O.J. Simpson Stands Accused of Brutally Killing Two People, One of Them the Woman He Loved," *Sports Illustrated*, June 27, 1994, https://vault.si.com/vault/1994/06/27/fatal-attraction-oj-simpson-stands-accused-of-brutally-killing-two-people-one-of-them-the-woman-he-loved.
2. Christine Spolar, "Nicole and O.J.: Scenes from a Volatile Relationship," *Washington Post*, June 24, 1994, https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1994/06/24/nicole-and-oj-scenes-from-a-volatile-relationship/0ec96c2a-f916-4e35-b10d-5882b1cb43fa/.
3. Hoffer, "O.J. Simpson Stands Accused."
4. The exact transcript of the 911 calls varies slightly by source, see, for example, Associated Press, "Transcript of 911 Calls," *Washington Post*, June 23, 1994, https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1994/06/23/transcript-of-911-phone-calls/89596579-c431-40d0-a1d2-49efb88f4a55/.

Credits

IMG 1.1: Copyright © Newscom/Michael Jacobs.

IMG 1.2: Jeff Skversky, Screenshot from "OJ Simpson Passed Away - #OJSimpson NFL Highlights via #NFL," https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8f5c9BaZzs0. Copyright © by NFL Enterprises LLC.

IMG 1.5: Los Angeles Police Department, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:O.J.-Simpson-Crime-Scene-Photos-3i.jpg, 1994.