

# Moments in Time

by Frank C. Clifford

THE CRIMINAL TRIAL OF O. J. SIMPSON:  
JANUARY 24, 1995; 10:34:29 A.M. PST; LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



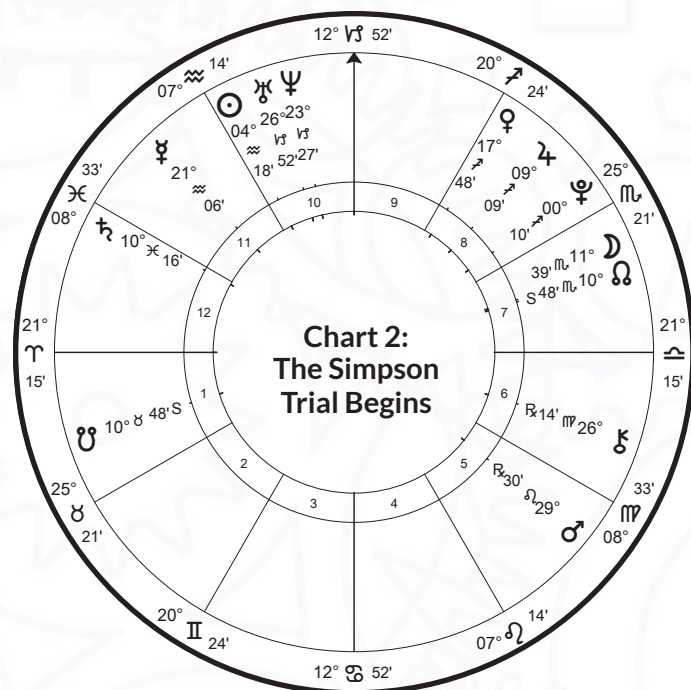
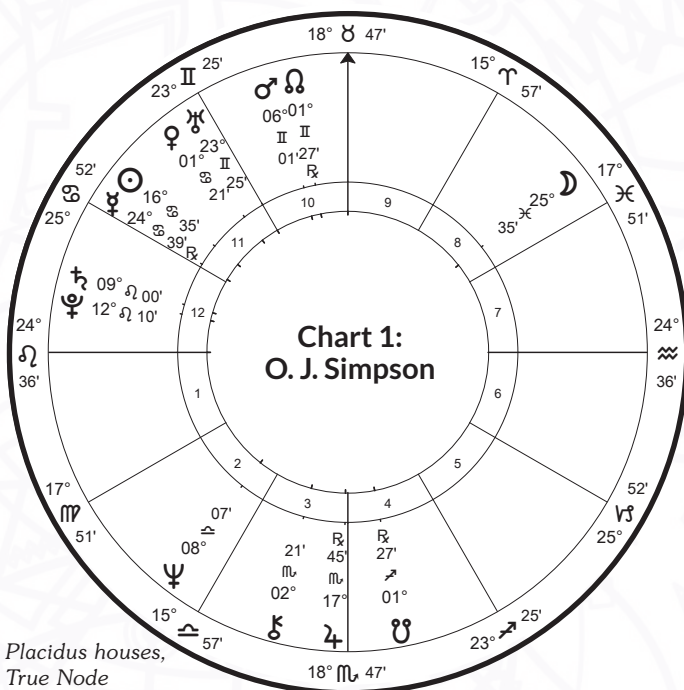
A gruesome double murder on Bundy Drive. A mesmerising slow-speed highway pursuit of a Ford Bronco on live TV. The “insurmountable evidence” demolished by the best defence team that money could buy. The People v. O. J. Simpson was hailed as “the trial of the century”: The idolised former football star and occasional actor had been the most famous person in America ever to be arrested for murder. Simpson was on trial for killing his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman. Forensic evidence (hair, blood, DNA, clothing fibres, hand prints, a sock, and a glove) connected him to the crime scene — yet he was famously acquitted. Simpson’s nine-month trial divided America along racial lines and has since been the subject of dozens of documentaries plus a recent TV series.

The courtroom circus featured a diverse cast of characters, from the single-mom attorney (Marcia Clark) leading the prosecution, to the freeloading houseguest (Kato Kaelin), the racist cop (Mark Fuhrman), the star-struck judge (Lance Ito), and the various inept crime scene analysts. The trial irrevocably changed the lives of everyone involved.

O. J. Simpson’s natal chart reveals his charisma and marketability, as well as his silver-tongued legal “Dream Team”

(the 11th-house emphasis, his Sun trine Jupiter, and Mars trine Neptune from the 10th to the 2nd house). (See **Chart 1.**) It suggests his fame as a running back in American football as well as his infamous association with two “knife-slashing” killings (Mars in Gemini in the 10th). His chart also reflects the (now) overriding public opinion that he got away with murder and that, in private, he was a possessive, physically threatening, and emotionally controlling spouse (Jupiter in Scorpio on the IC square Saturn–Pluto). Given that Simpson’s Saturn–Pluto in Leo in the 12th is square his MC–IC axis, his lawyer Johnnie Cochran skillfully portrayed Simpson as a victim of institutionalised racism and police corruption. In Simpson’s natal chart, asteroid *Cochran* is conjunct (within a degree) his Saturn, and by 1995 it had moved to conjoin Saturn in the trial chart.<sup>1</sup> Opposing attorneys Marcia Clark and Robert Shapiro are in there, too: Asteroids *Marcia* and *Shapiro* oppose Simpson’s Sun in Cancer.

It’s estimated that the murders took place around 10:10 p.m. on June 12, 1994 in Brentwood, Los Angeles, some weeks after a solar eclipse on Simpson’s Midheaven (MC). In the murder chart, Uranus and Neptune straddle the Capricorn Ascendant (and oppose Simpson’s Mercury and his murdered



Placidus houses,  
True Node

ex-wife's Mars). The murders created a media frenzy and reflected the status/celebrity-obsessed tabloid (later Internet) era that this conjunction in Capricorn heralded.

But let's look at the chart for the start of the trial (data courtesy of Marjorie Rosen, who watched it live on the air). (See **Chart 2**.) The prosecutors (initiators) are symbolised by the Ascendant, the defence by the Descendant. Aries rises, and chart ruler Mars is at the final degree of Leo (tightly square to Pluto, which had just moved into Sagittarius). In attempting to pursue the celebrity (Mars in Leo at the final degree conjunct Regulus), the prosecutors are fighting a losing battle: Malefic Mars is retrograde, the unfortunate South Node is in their house (the 1st), and Mercury would turn retrograde on the second day of the trial. Simpson and the defence are ruled by benefic Venus in lucky Sagittarius near the 9th-house cusp. Approval-seeking Judge Ito (represented by 10th-house ruler Saturn in Pisces) presided over the case and appeared to be dazzled by the fallen hero in his courtroom and the celebrities who visited (asteroid *Ito* is at 20° Libra conjunct the Descendant — on the side of the defence). When the “not guilty” verdict was read on October 3, 1995, Venus was at 21° Libra.

Mercury was retrograde in Cancer at the time of the murder (Simpson was also born with a retrograde Mercury in Cancer), reflecting the contamination of evidence and the alleged tampering that took place at the murder scene (Nicole Brown's property). But that retrograde would also appear at key times during the trial, which began as Mercury was stationary, ready to turn retrograde. The next time Mercury went retrograde (in Gemini: hands), Simpson tried on the gloves and proclaimed they were “too tight.” The final time was in Libra during the prosecution's and defence's closing statements (and the verdict), with Cochran famously saying, “If you cannot trust the messenger, you cannot trust the message” (Mercury) and “If it [the glove] doesn't fit, you must acquit.” Acquitted Simpson was, but on February 5, 1997, he was found liable in a civil suit for the “wrongful death” of both

parties. Transiting Jupiter and Uranus were conjunct in the sky and conjoining the original trial's Sun at 4° Aquarius.

The trial chart (along with Simpson's) has been activated many times since. Simpson attempted to profit from a book called *If I Did It*, a tasteless “fictional” account of the murder (seen by many as a confessional). Its publication was cancelled on November 20, 2006, as transiting (TR) Saturn reached his Ascendant at 24° Leo and TR Mars was at 18° Scorpio on his IC. Despite the book's being leaked on June 13, 2007 (with Neptune conjunct the trial's Mercury at 21° Aquarius), the Goldman family seized the legal rights to it, and the book was published on September 13, 2007. Synchronistically, this was the day O. J. staged an armed robbery in Las Vegas to reclaim some valuable memorabilia that he felt still belonged to him — Jupiter was at 11° Sagittarius, a full cycle from the start of the 1995 trial.

The robbery trial began on September 8, 2008 with TR Jupiter at 12° Capricorn (on the original trial's MC) and trine TR Saturn at 12° Virgo in the sky (they do say that karma's a bitch). Simpson was found guilty under another Mercury retrograde on October 3, 2008, the thirteenth anniversary of his original acquittal. He later lost a request for a new trial on November 27, 2013 as TR Saturn reached 16° Scorpio (near his Jupiter-IC). The recent TV dramatisation of the murder trial (*American Crime Story: The People v. O. J. Simpson*) began on February 2, 2016, with Venus at 12° Capricorn, while the Uranus-Pluto square activated Simpson's natal Sun in Cancer.

All data listed can be found at <http://www.astrodatbank.com>

#### Note

1. Cochran played the “race card,” and there was much tension and fear that a verdict of guilty would instigate further LA riots like those following the legal debacle surrounding Rodney King, who — remarkably — has Saturn at 11° Pisces conjunct the Simpson trial's Saturn.

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