



Civil-rights leader Medgar Evers was fatally shot in front of his home in Jackson, Miss. He was 37.

Federal obscenity trial on hold

Judge had explicit photos on Web site

By **Greg Risling**
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — A federal judge overseeing a case exploring the extreme fringe of pornography suspended the obscenity trial after The Los Angeles Times reported he had posted sexually explicit photos and videos on his own Web site.

Judge Alex Kozinski, chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, granted a joint prosecution and defense motion to suspend the trial after prosecutors said they needed time to look into the issue. The jury was ordered to return on Monday.

The suspension came after jurors spent hours at the Pasadena offices of the 9th Circuit watching videos of bestiality and extreme fetishes that are evidence in the trial of a Los Angeles businessman who sold them.

Kozinski indicated to the attorneys he would be willing to recuse himself but noted that the jurors had already seen two of the graphic movies.

Earlier, as the jury was hearing opening statements in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom, the Times reported on its Web site that Kozinski had posted sexual material on his Web site and then blocked access after being interviewed about it Tuesday evening.



2003 photo by Paul Sakuma/Associated Press

Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who is currently overseeing an obscenity trial in Los Angeles, has posted sexually explicit photos and videos on his own Web site.

The images included a video of a "half-dressed man cavorting with a sexually aroused farm animal," the newspaper reported.

Kozinski told the Times that he had thought the material on his Web site couldn't be seen by the public. He said he didn't believe the images were obscene.

"Is it prurient? I don't know what to tell you," he said. "I think it's odd and interesting. It's part of

life."

The jury was being asked to decide whether the films Ira Isaacs distributed are obscene under federal law. They must decide if the films appeal to a loathsome or degrading type of sexual intercourse and whether the sexual conduct is "patently offensive," judging by the community's standards.

Kozinski, 57, was assigned to oversee the trial in U.S. District

Court in Los Angeles under a program in which appellate judges occasionally handle district court trials.

Kozinski became the nation's youngest federal appeals court judge when he was appointed to the bench at age 35 by former President Ronald Reagan in 1985. He is known as a strong defender of free speech and First Amendment rights.