

## SYNOPSIS

In 1985 Delta Flight 191 crashed during a storm on approach to the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. In a 14-month bench trial, Delta attorneys argued that the FAA and National Weather Service were responsible for failing to warn the aircraft of a dangerous thunderstorm. The Department of Justice, representing the FAA and the NWS, argued that the crew had as much or more information than was available on the ground and should have not flown into the storm.

The 1988 trial was the first to make such extensive use of computer animation, and the first to use interactive video: a video laserdisc controlled by a laptop computer and operated by the expert on the witness stand. Z-Axis developed nearly one hour of animation.

According to DOJ attorneys, the effectiveness of the animations in communicating the details of the case was “pivotal.”

## VERDICT

In favor of the defendant.

