

Main players in the Oscar Pistorius trial

A female judge will decide Oscar Pistorius' fate and pronounce him innocent or guilty of murder in the shooting dead of his girlfriend on Valentine's Day 2013. If convicted, he could face 25 years in prison

JUDGE: THOKOZILE MASIPA

■ Presiding over biggest case of her career, Masipa has been judge for 15 years. Previously **crime reporter at The Sowetan** newspaper



■ Appointment to oversee and judge Pistorius' case (South Africa abolished juries in criminal trials in 1969) satisfies both prosecution and defence because of her **reputation for being unwaveringly fair**

PROSECUTION: GERRIE NEL

■ Considered South Africa's **top state prosecutor**. He secured conviction for corruption against former police chief Jackie Selebi



■ Described as master of presenting evidence. In Pistorius' bail hearing last year, Nel painted picture of Pistorius as man who was **"willing and ready to fire and kill"**



Crime scene: Pistorius' house



Nov 4, 2012: Pistorius with girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. He would shoot and kill her three months later

ACCUSED: OSCAR PISTORIUS

■ Was poster boy for disabled sport. His ability also to run alongside best able-bodied athletes made him one of world's most in-demand sports personalities for brands like **Nike**

DEFENCE: BARRY ROUX

■ Referred to as South Africa's **best defence lawyer**.

His cross-examination of police detective **Hilton Botha** in Pistorius' bail hearing was so thorough, that Botha conceded Pistorius' version of events could not be disproved

■ Succeeded in having Pistorius released on bail of one million rand (then \$113,000), despite being charged with **premeditated murder**

