We propose to create a new courtroom drama based interactive television show called "The Thirteenth Juror." This show will re-enact famous controversial or high drama court cases, and then give home and Internet based audiences the chance to be "The Thirteenth Juror" by voting on the outcome of the trial. This will be accomplished through real-time voting during the final commercial break. The votes will be tallied, and depending upon the outcome of the audience vote, one of two different pre developed trial outcomes will air.

The program will work using the same proven technology as similar shows like "American Idol." The difference is that viewers will actually be given the ability to directly choose the outcome of a dramatic show. This will be accomplished by shooting two alternate endings to each episode depicting either jury decision. Then at the appropriated time, phone lines, internet access, and digital cable access lines will be opened to collect votes from the viewing audience, which will be tallied in real-time during the final commercial break. The resulting vote will decide which of the two endings will be aired.

"The Thirteenth Juror" should be shot in a cinematic style, using wide screen 16x9 format on HD. The show will need to change on a weekly basis to reflect the time period and aesthetic of the courtroom that each trial actually occurred in. However, the principal actors (the lead counselors and assistant legal staff for both the prosecution and the defense should stay the same. Though their appearance may change to reflect the time period and or style of the actual trial lawyers, the actors will stay the same to develop a deeper interest in the characters by the viewing audience. To strengthen this, our lead characters will have some designed personality traits which will be developed through the delivery of their dialogue and their body language, but the basis of each shows content will in fact come from the highlights of each cases actual court records.

For legal purposes, names and some details will be changed, however the main arguments, evidence, and facts will remain the same. This show needs to be as accurate as possible.

Each show’s script will be taken from the transcripts of the actual cases or details from actual investigations. In some cases, when necessary, some dramatic license will be applied to the selections from the transcripts in order to make it more dramatic or engaging for our audiences. Any public records of cases, evidence, or transcripts will be used to create our scripts.
For broadcast airing, "The Thirteenth Juror" will be a 60-minute program, which will be broken down in the following manner:

**Segment 1** - 10 minutes, Case Introduction and setting the stage. This segment will introduce our narrator, who will later rejoin us in period, as the reporter outside of the court that instructs the audience to choose their verdict. The opening segment of the show opens from the 13th Juror POV, we see the courtroom and we look around it, taking in the scene as the time period reveals itself. While the courtroom organizes itself, we hear our narrator set the stage for the trial, giving our audience information about the timeframe and social settings that our trial takes place in.

**Segment 2** - 10 minutes; the prosecution will present their case. As our prosecution calls witnesses, we flash out of the courtroom to re enactments of what the witness saw or heard. While we see what the witness saw, we hear the witness narrating the scene from the courtroom which will always tie us back to the trial.

**Segment 3** - 10 minutes; the defense will present their case. Again, we use testimony to flash out of the courtroom and paint an alternative view to the prosecutions case.

**Segment 4** - 5 minutes, closing arguments by both sides, Judges instructions on what constitutes guilt or innocence and invitation for "The Thirteenth Juror" to vote online, by phone, or through digital cable interactivity by our reporter character.

**Segment 5** - Thirteenth Juror decided outcome would air with the jury foreman reading the audience decided verdict. Our court reporter/Narrator character closes the show from outside the courthouse reflecting on the jury’s decision, and suggesting any historical changes it may have caused.
Character Development

The main characters on “The Thirteenth Juror” would consist of the two legal teams. The judge would change out with each episode reflecting the judge that was used in the actual case. Additionally we will fill a 12 person jury box and the courtroom for each episode with extras.

Main Characters:

Narrator, Reporter, This character needs to have a history channel or A&E biographer type feel, they should have an “official” aura to them, someone the audience immediately trusts as the un bias expert on the show. They will introduce each episode, narrate the case reconstruction, and then act as the reporter, in period costume like the rest of the cast, prior to the final commercial break instructing the audience to “choose their verdict.”

Michael Thompson, lead prosecutor. Michael Thompson would be the a-typical lead prosecutor, he would be in his 50’s, and have a commanding but respectful nature. He is the type of person that you want to believe.

Chase Brookheim, prosecution lawyer. Chase is a mid 30s female. She started her legal career actually working on the defense side, but eventually her conscience got the best of her. Her brief legal experiences had taught her that where there is smoke, there usually is fire, and she therefore has switched to doing prosecution work. She is now a very professional and aggressive lawyer, eager to prove her point, and make her way to lead counsel.

James Cooper, Lead Defense Attorney. James Cooper, aka “Coop” is our defense expert. He is in his late 30s. He is very charismatic and likeable, and very passionate about his cases. He is the underdog that you want to route for, and he is always trying to find the silver lining in his cases, always wanting to believe in his clients. Juries like him because he is sincere with a good natured sense of humor.

Han Sing, defense attorney, Han is a late 20s Asian male. He has been out of law school for a few years, and is finding his style as a lawyer. He is a little on the shy side, but he is extremely articulate, speaks perfectly at all times, and is a master at saying the right thing at the right time. Juries wonder about him at first, but his thoroughness wins them over.

The Judge- This character would change for each episode, depending on the judge used in each actual case. A well known actor or actress would be used whenever possible.

The Jury- Extras would be used to fill the Jury panel. During the season a drawing could be held where winners could be used to fill the jury panel in a future episode.
Additional opportunities

We propose that "The Thirteenth Juror" also be web casted simultaneously with the actual broadcast of the show. During this web cast online participants would be able to watch the same program as the home viewer, but they will also be given access to exclusive online evidence that will be made available only during the broadcast. The additional interactive content will allow the viewer to have an enhanced participation in the show, while also creating an additional advertising source in the form of extremely demographically targeted banner advertisements.

Anticipating the popularity of "The Thirteenth Juror" seasonal DVDs should also be created that include all the online interactive content as well as extended legal proceedings and case reconstruction that were not aired due to the limitations of the broadcast time slot. On the extended DVD version of the show, the viewer will again be able to choose the outcome, and of course both endings will be available to be viewed.
Episode Suggestions

**Episode 1 - The Lindbergh Kidnapping**

Journalist H. L. Mencken called the trial of Bruno Hauptmann, the accused kidnapper of the baby of aviator Charles Lindbergh, "the greatest story since the Resurrection." While Mencken's description is doubtless an exaggeration, measured by the public interest it generated, the Hauptmann trial stands with the O. J. Simpson and Scopes trials as among the most famous trials of the twentieth century. The trial featured America's greatest hero, a good mystery involving ransom notes and voices in dark cemeteries, a crime that is every parent's worst nightmare, and a German-born defendant who fought against U. S. forces in World War I.

**Episode 2 - The Lizzie Borden Case**

Lizzie Borden took an axe,
And gave her mother forty whacks,
When she saw what she had done,
She gave her father forty-one.

Actually, the Bordens received only 29 whacks, not the 81 suggested by the famous ditty, but the popularity of the above poem is a testament to the public's fascination with the 1893 murder trial of Lizzie Borden. The source of that fascination might lie in the almost unimaginably brutal nature of the crime--given the sex, background, and age of the defendant--or in the jury's acquittal of Lizzie in the face of prosecution evidence that most historians today find compelling.

**Episode 3 - The Rosenberg Trial**

The Rosenberg Trial is the sum of many stories: a love story, a spy story, a story of a family torn apart, and a story of government overreaching. As is the case with many famous trials, it is also the story of a particular time: the early 1950's with its cold war tensions and headlines dominated by Senator Joseph McCarthy and his demagogic tactics.
**Episode 4 – The Mississippi Burning Trial**

It was an old-fashioned lynching, carried out with the help of county officials, that came to symbolize hardcore resistance to integration. Dead were three civil rights workers, Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney. All three shot in the dark of night on a lonely road in Neshoba County, Mississippi. Many people predicted such a tragedy when the Mississippi Summer Project, an effort that would bring hundreds of college-age volunteers to "the most totalitarian state in the country" was announced in April, 1964. The FBI's all-out search for the conspirators who killed the three young men, depicted in the movie "Mississippi Burning," was successful, leading three years later to a trial in the courtroom of one of America's most determined segregationist judges.

**Episode 5 – The Chicago 7 Trial**

What did it all mean? Was the Chicago Seven Trial merely, as one commentator suggested, "a monumental non-event"? Was it, as others argue, an important battle for the hearts and minds of the American people? Or is it best seen as a symbol of the conflicts of values that characterized the late sixties? These are some of the questions that surround one of the most unusual courtroom spectacles in American history, the 1969-70 trial of seven radicals accused of conspiring to incite a riot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

**Episode 6 - The Trial of Socrates**

The trial and execution of of Socrates in Athens in 399 B.C.E. puzzles historians. Why, in a society enjoying more freedom and democracy than any the world had ever seen, would a seventy-year-old philosopher be put to death for what he was teaching? The puzzle is all the greater because Socrates had taught--without molestation--all of his adult life. What could Socrates have said or done than prompted a jury of 500 Athenians to send him to his death just a few years before he would have died naturally?

**Episode 7 – George Burroughs, The Salem Witch Trials**

From June through September of 1692, nineteen men and women, all having been convicted of witchcraft, were carted to Gallows Hill, a barren slope near Salem Village, for hanging. Another man of over eighty years was pressed to death under heavy stones for refusing to submit to a trial on witchcraft charges. Hundreds of others faced accusations of witchcraft. Dozens languished in jail for months without trials. Then, almost as soon as it had begun, the hysteria that swept through Puritan Massachusetts ended.
Episode 8 - The Scopes Monkey Trial

Who would dominate American culture--the modernists or the traditionalists? Journalists were looking for a showdown, and they found one in a Dayton, Tennessee courtroom in the summer of 1925. There a jury was to decide the fate of John Scopes, a high school biology teacher charged with illegally teaching the theory of evolution. The guilt or innocence of John Scopes, and even the constitutionality of Tennessee's anti-evolution statute, mattered little. The meaning of the trial emerged through its interpretation as a conflict of social and intellectual values.

Episode 9 – The 1964 Lenny Bruce Café Au Go Go Trial

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Lenny Bruce was the spirit of hipness and rebellion. His underdog, idealistic humor took on every American sacred cow, from capitalism to organized religion to sexual mores. In 1964 he was accused and tried for obscenity during his performance at the Café Au Go Go. The trial got to the very heart of what was entertainment, what should be protected under the first amendment, and it was a pivotal moment in pop culture. "What does it mean to be found obscene in New York? This is the most sophisticated city in the country....If anyone is the first person to be found obscene in New York, he must feel utterly depraved."
--Lenny Bruce, after his conviction for obscenity in New York's Cafe Au Go Go trial.

Episode 10 – The Menendez Trial

Two brothers accused of the horrible crime of murdering their parents. Did they do commit the crime for a large inheritance, or was their crime excusable due to insanity as a result of years and years of parental abuse.

Episode 11 – The Boston Massacre Trial

Although it has been over two centuries since the moonlit March night in 1770 when British soldiers killed five Bostonians on King Street, people still debate responsibility for the Boston Massacre. Does the blame rest with the crowd of Bostonians who hurled insults, snowballs, oysters shells, and other objects at the soldiers, or does the blame rest with an overreacting military that violated laws of the colony that prohibited firing at civilians? Whatever side one takes in the debate, all can agree that the Boston Massacre stands as a significant landmark on the road to the American Revolution.
**Episode 12 – The Trial of Galileo**

In the 1633 trial of Galileo Galilei, two worlds come into cosmic conflict. Galileo's world of science and humanism collides with the world of Scholasticism and absolutism that held power in the Catholic Church. The result is a tragedy that marks both the end of Galileo's liberty and the end of the Italian Renaissance.

**Episode 13 – The Trial of William “Big Bill” Haywood**

The struggle between the Western Federation of Miners and the Western Mine Owners' Association at the turn of the twentieth century might well be called a "war." When the state of Idaho prosecuted William "Big Bill" Haywood in 1907 for ordering the assassination of former governor Frank Steunenberg, fifteen years of union bombings and murders, fifteen years of mine owner intimidation and greed, and fifteen years of government abuse of process and denials of liberties spilled into the national headlines. Featuring James McParland, America's most famous detective; Harry Orchard, America's most notorious mass murderer turned state's witness; Big Bill Haywood, America's most radical labor leader; and Clarence Darrow, America's most famous defense attorney, the Haywood trial ranks as one of the most fascinating criminal trials in history.