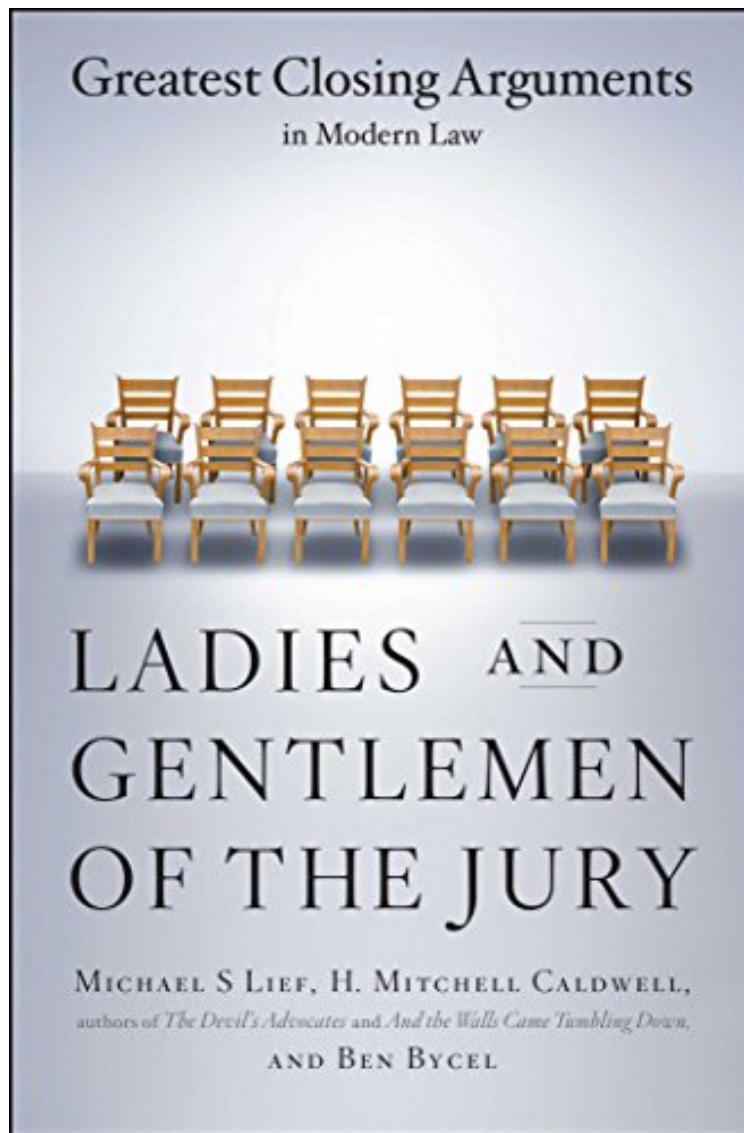


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## Ladies And Gentlemen Of The Jury: Greatest Closing Arguments In Modern Law (English Edition)

Von Michael S. Lief, H. Mitchell Caldwell  
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Von Michael S. Lief, H. Mitchell Caldwell : Ladies And Gentlemen Of The Jury: Greatest Closing Arguments In Modern Law (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ladies And Gentlemen Of The Jury: Greatest Closing Arguments In Modern Law (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. More Appropriately Titled "Very Good Closing Arguments" Von Andrew T. Berkowitz Truthfully, I wish I had read the reviews before I purchased this book. Not that it is bad read - it certainly is not - but because the title is misleading (e.g., one is led to believe this work focuses on improving trial advocacy skills.) Within twenty or so pages, the reader soon finds Lief's effort to actually be a historical piece with a minimum of analysis. Rather dry but then again so is almost anything that is repetitive in nature. First, the ten "greatest" closing arguments fail to rise to that level because it is impossible to discern the criteria for such a standard. The author admits to as much in the introduction when he states that it is terribly presumptuous to make such a claim. Second, while I gave the author much leeway in the above area precisely because he admitted to the outrageousness of the claim, I was nevertheless extremely disappointed because of the noticeable strain in attempting to include a selection comprised of both famous cases (which, of course, do not always have great closing arguments) and great closing arguments (which, conversely, are not limited to famous cases.) What the author winds up with is a disjointed mish-mash of trials that fails to establish a cohesive central theme. Finally, "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury" is almost completely devoid of any critical analysis. As any trial record can be accessed by submitting a Freedom of Information Act request to the appropriate agency, a book purporting to contain the most influential closing arguments in American history should offer the reader much more than just mere recitations. Truly, this facet of the work manifests an extreme oversight. A few quick comments before I conclude. Skip the two Darrow arguments - they'll just knock you out (seventy-five years ago he may have been eloquent but, by today's standards, he is a complete bore.) Similar to the above, the Nuremberg argument drags on indefinitely. However, be sure to read the Silkwood and Manson cases (trust me, you'll be on the edge of your seat the entire time.) The other five cases, while interesting from a historical perspective, don't really add much to the reading experience. In short, recommended as light reading over the weekend but only if you wish to improve your understanding of the development of the American legal system. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Book brings to life some of the great cases of the century Von Ein Kunde I found this book a must for anyone interested in famous trials. I'm an historian and not a lawyer and found it to be just what I needed to increase my knowledge of specific trials at crucial points in history. For example, the chapter on the Nazi war crimes trials allowed me to fully understand the complexities of an international war tribunal. Darrow's closing argument in the Leopold and Loeb case was one of the most erudite pieces of logic this writer has ever come across. I've given this book to many of my lawyer friends as presents. They enjoyed it as much as I did. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is great rhetoric? Von Ein Kunde I was tremendously disappointed with this book. It contains nothing but the blathering of lawyers, who everyone knows use words as though they were bludgeons. For anyone seeking wonderful speech, artful rhetoric, or earth-shaking persuasion, seek elsewhere. I suspect that Mr. Lief, et al., have chosen these arguments from the narrow view of lawyer-hood, without much regard for their true value as speeches-- but then perhaps I ask too much of the reviled profession. In any event, skip the commentaries (I wish the authors had-- I'd have given them another star if they had).

Kurzbeschreibung The closing arguments from ten noteworthy cases lawyers and nonlawyers will enjoy the passion and eloquence of these counselors; practitioners of law will find much to learn from them (Los Angeles Times Book ). Until now, only the twelve jurors who sat in judgment were able to appreciate these virtuoso performances, where weeks of testimony were boiled down and presented with flair, wit, and high drama. For five years the authors researched every archive, and readers can now lose themselves in the summations of America's finest litigators. Clarence Darrow saves Leopold and Loeb from the gallows in the Roaring Twenties. Gerry Spence takes on the nuclear power industry for the death of Karen Silkwood in a modern-day David and Goliath struggle. Vincent Bugliosi squares off against the madness of Charles Manson and his murderous family in the aftermath of their bloody spree. Clara Foltz, the first woman to practice law in California, argues passionately to an all-male jury, defending her place in the courtroom. Bobby DeLaughter brings the killer of civil-rights leader Medgar Evers to justice after thirty years and two mistrials. Aubrey Daniel brings Lt. William Calley, Jr., to justice for the My Lai massacre. William Kunstler challenges the establishment after the 1968 Chicago riots in his defense of yippie leaders known as the Chicago Seven. Each closing argument is put into context by the authors, who provide historical background, a brief biography of each attorney, and commentary, pointing out the trial tactics used to great effect by the lawyers, all in accessible, reader-friendly language. de Anyone who's ever watched Perry Mason knows that the closing argument is a very important part of a big legal case. The closing argument is the "game point" of law, the time when lawyers pull out all the stops on the cajoling and the litigating. Michael S. Lief and his coauthors have collected the closing arguments from 10 noteworthy cases in this volume, introducing each speech with background information on the trial and commentary on the lawyer's technique. In these pages, readers get front-row seats to some of the most riveting trials in this century, including the Charles Manson murder trial, Karen Silkwood's wrongful-death suit, and the trial of the Chicago Seven. Because the authors chose to include all the courtroom interruptions in the transcript, the Manson summation makes

for especially lively reading. Manson and his codefendants repeatedly spoke out of turn during prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi's statement, saying things like "You are going to be eaten up by your own lie" and "Even if I have never been in the Gotham Bank!" Bugliosi's speech is among the most eloquent in the collection, which is why it is so stunning when one of the defendants provokes him so much that he loses his cool and calls her a name that rhymes with rich. Although the title promises the "greatest closing arguments in modern law," some of the speeches seem to have been chosen because they were connected to important cases rather than because of their own rhetorical merits. However, the cases themselves are interesting, and these transcripts bring them to life better than any summary would. This collection should be of interest to anyone in the legal profession. --Jill Marquis

From Library Journal

The authors have pooled their legal and academic expertise for this unique combination of primary-source material, annotation, and commentary gleaned from the oral summations at ten famous American trials. The ten cases chosen for analysis provide all the ingredients for memorable finales: historical relevance, political importance, social significance, and the popular notoriety of the litigants. Each chapter places the verbatim material into a historical, social, and legal context the reader can understand and appreciate. Included in the selection are excerpts from trials that typified the trauma of their times: the 1971 prosecution of Army Lieutenant William Calley Jr. for the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai; William Kunstler's spirited defense of the Chicago Seven, accused of conspiracy to disrupt the 1968 Democratic National Convention; the prosecution of the Mississippi segregationist who assassinated Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers; and Clarence Darrow's 1924 defense of Leopold and Loeb, who had confessed to a cold-blooded thrill killing. The book would satisfy those with a general interest in history or political science; law students and legal practitioners could learn useful rhetorical strategies.

A Philip Y. Blue, New York State Supreme Court Criminal Branch Law Lib., First Judicial Dist., New York

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