



When every word counts

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FEATURES

[Planning, Preparing, and Writing Your Jury Argument](#)

[Delivering Your Jury Argument](#)

[Dos & Don'ts of Jury Argument](#)

[Practice Tips & Tactics](#)
(1) (2) (3) (4)

[Sample Excerpts of Jury Argument](#)
(1) (2) (3) (4)

[Spotlighted Jury Arguments](#)
(1 - Defense/RICO)
(2 - Prosecution & Defense / Murder)
(3 - Defense/Sexual Assault)

[Legal Objections to Jury Argument](#)

[Videos of Openings and Closings](#)

[JACC Book 5500 Sample Arguments](#)

[Reviews of JACC- Jury Argument in Criminal Cases](#)

[Transcripts of Famous Jury Arguments - The Last Word](#)

[Interviews with Prosecutors](#)

[Links](#)

[Bibliography of Jury Argument Materials](#)

CCJA

Jury Argument

IN CRIMINAL CASES

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ABOUT THE SITE -

This **CCJA** web site is about jury argument (some call it final argument, closing argument or summation) in criminal cases. Our goal is to assist prosecutors and defenders who want to develop their skills in preparing and delivering persuasive jury arguments.

For advocates who are trying to put it all together for jury argument, you'll notice that we regularly add new how-to-do-it information.

OUR PHILOSOPHY ABOUT JURY ARGUMENT ...

A trial lawyer is a professional speaker. Every advocate who tries cases has the obligation to become a better talker and communicator ... to make every word count. Some of us are not content to make the same old tired arguments time and time again. We recognize that our choice of words and linguistic style may be as important in communicating persuasively with the jurors as the message we want to deliver.

Yet for those of us trying to improve our craft, it makes no sense to reinvent the wheel every time we face the task of preparing and delivering a jury argument. The suggestions and examples contained in this site are here to cheer the argumentative spirit, to awaken enthusiasm, and to stir the imagination. Those lawyers who are born to eloquence will have no need of our resources. But the rest of us, whether trying our first or fiftieth case, may find useful how-to-do-it stuff in the site. Try it out, and judge for yourself.

Ray Moses
CCJA

Great is the art of beginning, but greater is the art of ending.

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The author of these materials has experience as a federal and state prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, visiting judge, special master, law professor, CLE presenter, and legal writer; he holds law degrees from the law schools of the University of Texas, Northwestern University, and S.M.U. and was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School and an academic visitor at the Law School of the London School of Economics and Political Science.