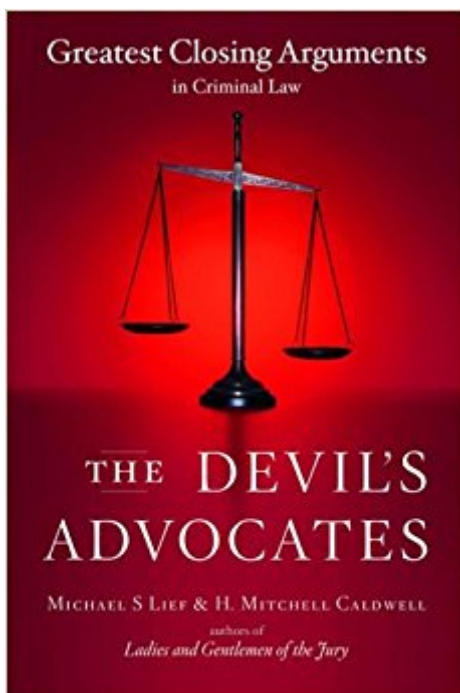


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The Devil's Advocates: Greatest Closing Arguments In Criminal Law



Synopsis

The Final Volume in a Must-Have Trilogy of the Best Closing Arguments in American Legal History In *The Devil's Advocates*, Michael S. Lief and H. Mitchell Caldwell turn to the dramatic crimes and trials of criminal law. The eight famous cases in this riveting collection have set historical precedents and illuminated fundamentals of the American criminal justice system. Future president John Adams illustrates the principle that even the most despised and vilified criminal is entitled to a legal defense in the argument he delivers on behalf of the British soldiers who shot and killed five Americans during the Boston Massacre. Clarence Darrow provides a ringing defense of a black family charged with using deadly force after defending themselves from a violent mob - an argument that refines the concept of self-defense. And perhaps the best-known case is that of Ernesto Miranda, the accused rapist whose trial led to the critically important Miranda decision, which underpins procedure at every criminal arrest. Each case presented is given legal and cultural context, including a brief historical introduction, biographical sketches of the attorneys involved, highlights of trial testimony, analysis of the closing arguments and a summary of the trial's impact on its participants and our country. In clear, jargon-free prose, the authors make these pivotal cases come to vibrant life for every reader. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

"Makes for unexpectedly engaging reading -- not only the arguments themselves (each an example of rhetorical mastery) but also the history provided to give each argument context." -- *The American Lawyer* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Michael S Lief is a senior deputy district attorney in Ventura, California. A former newspaper editor, he was a submarine driver for the U. S. Navy during the Cold War. H. Mitchell Caldwell is a professor at Pepperdine University School of Law. A former deputy district attorney, he specializes in death-penalty litigation before the California Supreme Court.

Many dull patches.

This book reads like a book of short stories, each one describing a criminal trial. They don't all actually detail the closing arguments, but all are interesting. Lief provides plenty of background information to set the stage for the story, he introduces the attorneys and others involved in the case, and then tells the story, pointing out why the particular case is noteworthy. I plan on reading Lief's other two closing argument books too.

I have found this book helpful in many ways during my law school career. It is a wonderful book and very well put together. It relays the stories behind the closing arguments and you will not want to put it down. I used it in my Trial Advocacy course when writing my closing statement and I think you will find it useful even if you aren't in law school! It is so interesting!

Well written book, the authors don't really cover that much of the closing arguments for some of the cases and there is more history and reasoning for those chapters. The history and reasoning is not a bad thing I just expected more closing arguments since that is what the book is supposed to cover. The choice of cases was pretty good, however, some of the older cases were a tough read. Good overall.

I simply cannot heap enough praise. Oh...how I wished I had this audiobook - of nineteen disks - when I studied criminal justice and trial practice in law school. What makes this book extraordinary? The audiobook provides dramatic recreations of the great speeches before juries or stirring appellate arguments before the Supreme Court coupled with comprehensive and intelligent contextualization. The cases and arguments are explained within the framework of American history and jurisprudence. For example, in discussing the landmark case of *Mapp v. Ohio* which created the exclusionary rule for evidence obtained in violation of the Bill of Rights, the authors delve into the history of the Warren Court, the biographies of the justices, the social changes in the 1960's and the

entire legal history of search and seizure from the days before the American Revolution to the time of the argument and beyond. Yes, it is the marvelous background and explanation that makes this a five star book. Thinking of a gift for that young adult who just took her LSAT or gained admission to an Ivy League law school? This is IT.

Great condition, great book.

This book is well-written and captivating. Each chapter gives great details in leading up to the trial, as well as what happens after. I enjoy it immensely. I definitely recommend it to history buffs and to trial watchers.

I gave this as a gift in the audio format and it has been much enjoyed by the recipient, who quotes it often and who purchased 3 additional copies to give as gifts.

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