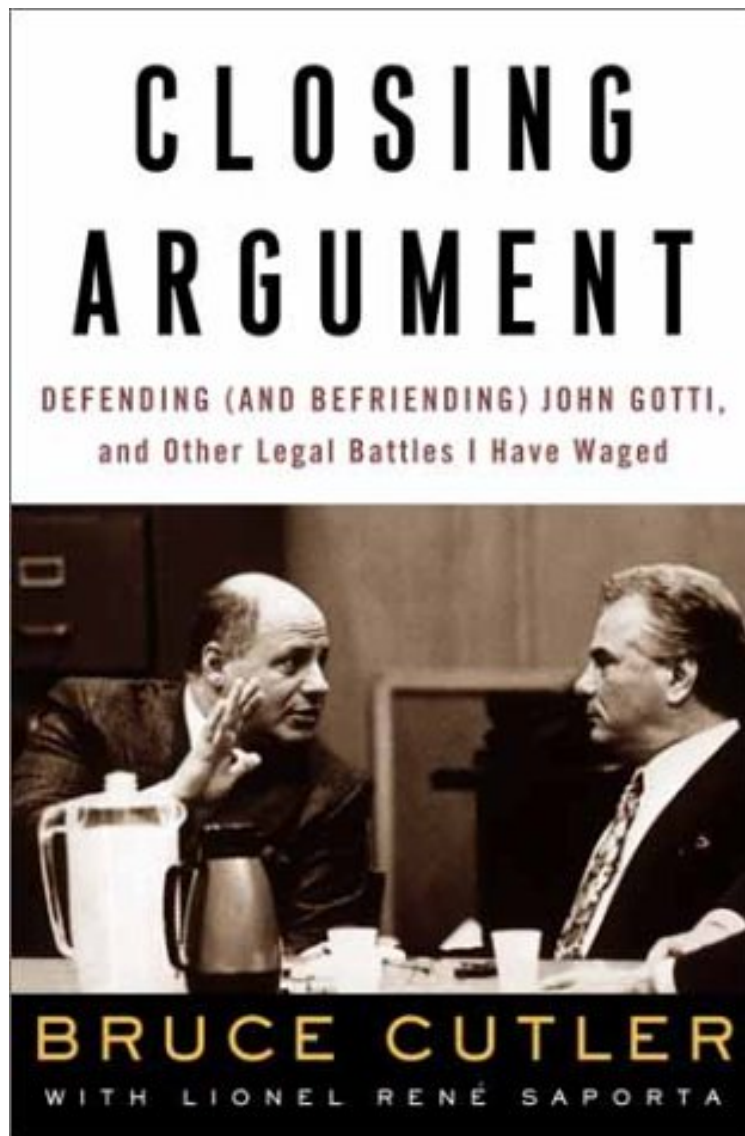


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Closing Argument: Defending (and Befriending) John Gotti, and Other Legal Battles I Have Waged

Bruce Cutler, Lionel Rene Saporta
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Bruce Cutler, Lionel Rene Saporta : Closing Argument: Defending (and Befriending) John Gotti, and Other Legal Battles I Have Waged before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Closing Argument: Defending (and Befriending) John Gotti, and Other Legal Battles I Have Waged:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By Julie Dubell loved Bruce's book. He's a very interesting man and his book was fun to read. I liked Bruce's inclusion of his personal hopes and fears. Very interesting person.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Defence GodBy L. P. F. LaffertyThere is no doubting Cutler is a fighter and his track record is impressive. Enjoyed this because it did not delve into syrupy self promotion. Very enjoyable.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Standup101all about me, me, me - little context

Bruce Cutler, one of the most famous lawyers in America, has never told his story until now. Best known for his tenacious and highly publicized defense of John Gotti in the 1980s and early 1990s, Cutler personified a confidence, passion, and legal thoroughness that repeatedly defied a government determined to bring Gotti to his knees. A ubiquitous presence at Gotti's side in and out of the courtroom and on the front pages of newspapers around the country, Cutler became almost as infamous as his client. And, as John Gotti became a lightning rod for every prosecutor seeking glory, reputation, or promotion, Cutler too became a lightning rod for controversy. According to the feds, Bruce Cutler may have gotten too close, and they made sure that both he and his client paid the price. Cutler, the son of a detective turned lawyer, resolved his choice of profession early in life and plunged headlong into the tumultuous and at times surreal world of the New York legal system. In *Closing Argument*, Cutler recounts his time as an aggressive, tireless assistant D.A. in Brooklyn; how he switched sides and became a fiercely dedicated defense attorney working with Barry Slotnick, one of New York's premier criminal attorneys; and the path that led him to John Gotti's side in court. It was March 28, 1985, to be precise: He was thirty-six years old, and it was a moment that would change both men's lives forever. *Closing Argument* is the inside story of how Bruce Cutler and John Gotti frustrated the feds so much that they finally had to break the rules themselves to convict the so-called Teflon Don. The years Cutler and Gotti spent together were a kind of golden age of criminal (and in particular organized crime) litigation, and both lawyer and client were at the red-hot center of it all. What neither man may have realized then is that the famous trials were mostly about the governments wanting to put an end to a certain way of life, one that John Gotti and his like embodied. The conviction of Gotti, and his subsequent death in 2002 while serving a life sentence in solitary confinement, marked the end of an era. *Closing Argument* is a glimpse into the world of John Gotti: the talk around the table at the notorious Ravenite social club; the murder of Paul Castellano; Gotti's feelings about the treachery of Sammy The Bull Gravano and the alleged betrayal by Wilfred Willie Boy Johnson; and what it took to make it in a world with its own set of unbreakable rules. This fascinating document makes clear that Gotti and Cutler were perfectly matched. Their inability to compromise, their full-throttle approach to their defense, and the charisma that made them the favorites of the press, were their strengths and, ironically, what made them such inviting targets to a host of prosecutors. Bruce Cutler, in typical style, pulls no punches in *Closing Argument*. It is very rare for a practicing lawyer to talk with the kind of candor he does here, and it is rarer for any lawyer to ever become as passionate and emotionally involved as he did with his client, John Gotti.

From *Publishers Weekly* This is a highly detailed autobiography by criminal defense attorney Cutler, who gained national prominence in the late 1980s and early 1990s as lawyer for convicted mobster John Gotti. With legal associate Saporta, Cutler describes in detail how his hyperaggressive, no-holds-barred courtroom style produced two acquittals for Gotti in high-profile federal trials; he also claims (with justification) that he would have gotten a third victory if the government had not been successful in getting him disqualified as legal counsel for the "Teflon Don." But the casual true crime reader will find out more about Cutler's early upbringing (the first third of the book) than any new information about the legendary and infamous Gotti of New York's Gambino crime family (even after the Don's death, Cutler is tight-lipped about his former client). The main villain in Cutler's story is the federal RICO Act, under which Gotti was charged and which Cutler contends is "a statute with lots of room for interpretation, and lots of opportunities for the government to destroy those whom it has decided worthy of destruction." But Cutler also displays clever legalese by stating early on, "I never believed John guilty of the things with which he was being charged." In fact, what is most remarkable in this book is Cutler's professed innocence about—indeed, admiration for—"the community of gamblers and street fellows who comprise what the government likes to call organized crime." He refuses to say anything stronger about Gotti than that his "alternate and rebellious lifestyle" made him "an easy target for over-reaching prosecutors seeking a scapegoat for all society's ills." Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Stellar criminal defense attorney Cutler, famed for his defense of the late "Teflon Don" John Gotti, provides another starry-eyed but entertaining account of representing organized crime figures. Like Bobby Simone, the Philadelphia attorney who "dared to defend the mob" (*The Last Mouthpiece*), Cutler provides a gripping account of his high-profile trials, especially those involving Gotti. Cutler portrays his client as a brilliant, courteous, principled man who had the misfortune of growing up poor in a community where criminals garnered respect. Like Simone, he reviles those who became government informants like Sammy Gravano, lying to save their skins instead of taking their punishment like men. The book is organized chronologically, offering Cutler's take on seven years as a state prosecutor and concluding with Gotti's death. Given Cutler's talent in the courtroom and relative youth (53), this

autobiography will no doubt be continued, to readers' delight. Recommend for large public library crime collections. Harry Charles, Attorney at Law, St. Louis Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap Bruce Cutler, one of the most famous lawyers in America, has never told his story until now. Best known for his tenacious and highly publicized defense of John Gotti in the 1980s and early 1990s, Cutler personified a confidence, passion, and legal thoroughness that repeatedly defied a government determined to bring Gotti to his knees. A ubiquitous presence at Gotti's side in and out of the courtroom and on the front pages of newspapers around the country, Cutler became almost as infamous as his client. And, as John Gotti became a lightning rod for every prosecutor seeking glory, reputation, or promotion, Cutler too became a lightning rod for controversy. According to the feds, Bruce Cutler may have gotten too close, and they made sure that both he and his client paid the price. Cutler, the son of a detective turned lawyer, resolved his choice of profession early in life and plunged headlong into the tumultuous and at times surreal world of the New York legal system. In *Closing Argument*, Cutler recounts his time as an aggressive, tireless assistant D.A. in Brooklyn; how he switched sides and became a fiercely dedicated defense attorney working with Barry Slotnick, one of New York's premier criminal attorneys; and the path that led him to John Gotti's side in court. It was March 28, 1985, to be precise: He was thirty-six years old, and it was a moment that would change both men's lives forever. *Closing Argument* is the inside story of how Bruce Cutler and John Gotti frustrated the feds so much that they finally had to break the rules themselves to convict the so-called Teflon Don. The years Cutler and Gotti spent together were a kind of golden age of criminal (and in particular organized crime) litigation, and both lawyer and client were at the red-hot center of it all. What neither man may have realized then is that the famous trials were mostly about the government's wanting to put an end to a certain way of life, one that John Gotti and his like embodied. The conviction of Gotti, and his subsequent death in 2002 while serving a life sentence in solitary confinement, marked the end of an era. *Closing Argument* is a glimpse into the world of John Gotti: the talk around the table at the notorious Ravenite social club; the murder of Paul Castellano; Gotti's feelings about the treachery of Sammy "The Bull" Gravano and the alleged betrayal by Wilfred "Willie Boy" Johnson; and what it took to make it in a world with its own set of unbreakable rules. This fascinating document makes clear that Gotti and Cutler were perfectly matched. Their inability to compromise, their full-throttle approach to their defense, and the charisma that made them the favorites of the press, were their strengths and, ironically, what made them such inviting targets to a host of prosecutors. Bruce Cutler, in typical style, pulls no punches in *Closing Argument*. It is very rare for a practicing lawyer to talk with the kind of candor he does here, and it is rarer for any lawyer to ever become as passionate and emotionally involved as he did with his client, John Gotti.