

One Cool Closing Argument

The 1921 Black Sox Trial

Summation for the prosecution by Assistant State's Attorney, Edward Prindeville (July 29, 1921)

What more convincing proof do you want than the statement by the ballplayers? Joe Jackson, Eddie Cicotte, and Williams sold out the American public for a paltry \$20,000. They collected the money, but they could not keep quiet. Their consciences would not let them rest. When the scandal broke, they sought out the State's Attorney's office and made their confessions voluntarily. Cicotte told his story to Chief Justice MacDonald. Then he told it to the Grand Jury. He was followed to the Grand Jury room by Jackson and Williams. On evidence which they gave the jurors, Bill Burns, the State's star witness, was indicted. They have called Burns a squealer, but I tell you that he owes his connection in the case to what these defendant ballplayers have confessed....

This is an unusual case as it deals with a class of men who are involved in the great national game which all red-blooded men follow. This game, gentlemen, has been the subject of a crime. The public, the club owners, even the small boys on the sandlots have been swindled. That is why these defendants are charged with conspiracy.

This is a strong closing argument because:

Examples of Aristotle's Argumentative Appeals:

Pathos:

Logos:

Ethos: