



**LAW OFFICE OF GERALD
OGINSKI, LLC**

67 Cutter Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11021

T 516-487-8207

Gerry@Oginski-Law.com

At trial, do the attorneys decide how long their closing arguments will be?

In a civil trial in New York, do the attorneys get to decide how long their closing remarks are at trial? You want to know the answer? Come join me for a moment as I share with you some great information. Hi, I'm Gerry Oginski. I'm a New York Medical Malpractice and Personal Injury Attorney, practicing law here in the state of New York. The answer is, "No." The attorneys do not decide how long they're going to have at closing remarks. Instead, it is the judge who controls what goes on in the courtroom during the trial. Now, can you imagine an attorney asking the judge, "Listen Judge, I need three hours to give closing remarks to the jury. This has been a very long trial. I need plenty of time to re-hash and go through, and summarize all the testimony that went on."?

You know what the judge is likely going to say? "Counselor, I appreciate the fact that you have three hour's worth of closing remarks, but you are going to have no more than 45 minutes", or maybe, "You have no more than 30 minutes", or maybe, "I'll give you one hour. You better put all that information and condense it into a shorter period of time." Now, why would the judge do that? For one key reason, the key reason is that if you have a three hour long-winded closing argument, the jury's going to get bored. They're going to get tired. They're not going to be paying attention. If they're not paying attention, you're going to lose them. You lose credibility and that's a significant problem, especially when you're asking them to give you a verdict in your favor.

Even though the attorney has a lot to say, he wants to re-hash everything that went on during the course of trial, in all likelihood the judge is going to say, "Counselor, your arguments are limited to no more than 45 minutes. No more than 20 minutes." Or, whatever the time period is, but I guarantee you it'll likely be a lot less than the three hours the attorney is requesting. Why do I share this quick information with you? I share it with you because I recognize and acknowledge that you have questions or concerns about your

own particular matter. If your matter did happen here in New York, and you're thinking about bringing a lawsuit, but you have questions that need answers, what I invite you to do is pick up the phone and call me. I can answer your legal questions. It is something I do every single day, and I'd love to talk to you. You can reach me at 516-487-8207, or by email at Gerry@Oginski-Law.com. That's it for today's video. I'm Gerry Oginski. Have a fantastic day.