

2024

Closing Argument

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Recommended Citation

Duhamel, Denise (2024) "Closing Argument," *Nelle*: Vol. 7, Article 13.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/nelle/vol7/iss2024/13>

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Denise Duhamel

CLOSING ARGUMENT

As you heard from many witnesses during this trial, my client has nothing to do with the climate crisis. The prosecutor, again and again, has tried to put her—unsuccessfully—at the scene of overconsumption, littering, smoking. CCTV footage clearly shows her using the proper recycling bins, driving within the speed limit, and, more often than not, she's on foot. By her own admission, she's eaten bacon and burgers but never more than once a month. As her receipts show, she buys "reef-friendly" sunscreen and locally sourced fish. You must not stereotype and lump her in with an entire generation. Is the planet fucked? My client would be the first to answer yes. Kind people of the jury, any of you could be equally and outlandishly charged. You all have smart phones which emit more greenhouse gasses than any other consumer electronic device. We are all part of the planet's demise. My client signed her confession under duress. As our expert witness has attested, her Catholic upbringing fills her with guilt. She often apologizes for what isn't her fault. I ask you—can you say, beyond a reasonable doubt, she is the reason no Western Black Rhinos are left?