

## **Closing the Arbitration Reply Briefs**

### **Introduction**

Closing an arbitration reply brief is a critical component of persuasive legal writing. It represents the final opportunity for a party to reinforce its arguments, address any remaining issues, and leave a lasting impression on the arbitrator or arbitration panel. A well-crafted closing should be concise, compelling, and strategically focused.

### **Purpose of the Closing Section**

The closing section of an arbitration reply brief serves several key purposes:

- **Reinforce Key Arguments:** Summarize the strongest points made throughout the brief.
- **Respond to Opposing Arguments:** Highlight weaknesses or inconsistencies in the opposing party's position.
- **Clarify the Relief Sought:** Clearly restate the outcome you are requesting from the tribunal.
- **Leave a Persuasive Impression:** End with a strong, memorable statement that supports your position.

### **Key Elements of an Effective Closing**

#### **1. Concise Summary of Arguments**

Begin by briefly reiterating the most compelling arguments presented in the reply brief. Avoid repeating every detail; instead, focus on the points that are most likely to influence the arbitrator's decision.

#### **2. Address Remaining Issues**

If there are unresolved factual or legal disputes, use the closing to clarify your position and explain why your interpretation should prevail.

#### **3. Emphasize Equity and Fairness**

Arbitrators often consider principles of fairness. Reinforce why your position leads to a just and equitable outcome.

#### **4. Restate the Relief Requested**

Clearly and specifically state the relief you are seeking, whether it is monetary damages, declaratory relief, or dismissal of claims.

## **5. Strong Concluding Statement**

End with a confident and persuasive statement that encapsulates your position and reinforces why the tribunal should rule in your favor.

### **Style and Tone Considerations**

- **Be Direct and Clear:** Avoid unnecessary legal jargon or overly complex sentences.
- **Maintain Professionalism:** Keep a respectful tone, even when critiquing the opposing party.
- **Be Persuasive, Not Repetitive:** Focus on impact rather than volume.
- **Use Active Voice:** This enhances clarity and authority.

### **Common Pitfalls to Avoid**

- **Introducing New Arguments:** The closing is not the place for new claims or evidence.
- **Overly Lengthy Conclusions:** A closing should be succinct and focused.
- **Emotional or Aggressive Language:** This can undermine credibility.
- **Lack of Specificity:** Vague requests for relief weaken the effectiveness of the brief.

### **Sample Closing Paragraph**

"For the foregoing reasons, Respondent respectfully requests that the Tribunal deny Claimant's claims in their entirety and grant such further relief as it deems just and proper. The evidence and applicable law firmly support Respondent's position, and no basis exists for the relief sought by Claimant. Accordingly, the Tribunal should rule in favor of Respondent on all counts."

### **Conclusion**

A strong closing in an arbitration reply brief is essential to effective advocacy. By summarizing key arguments, addressing remaining issues, and clearly stating the requested relief, counsel can leave a compelling final impression that supports a favorable outcome.