

NEWS

# YA GOTTI BELIEVE THEY'RE ALL LYING RATS, LAWYER SEZ

BY ROBERT GEARTY / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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SIX MOB TURNCOATS plus Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa equal seven big, fat liars, John A. (Junior) Gotti's lawyer told a Manhattan jury yesterday. Jeffrey Lichtman called the gangsters murderous "maniacs" - and derided Sliwa as a "money-grubbing liar addicted to publicity" as he delivered closing arguments in Gotti's kidnapping and racketeering trial. "These witnesses lied to you and they lied to you repeatedly," Lichtman told jurors, who are expected to begin deliberations today in Manhattan Federal Court. Gotti, 41, is charged with dispatching two goons to attack Sliwa in 1992 for bad-mouthing his Gambino boss father on the radio. Junior Gotti, who also is accused of extortion, stock fraud and loansharking, faces up to 30 years, if convicted. Sliwa testified that he was seriously wounded when he was ambushed in the back of a taxi whose doors and windows had been rigged to trap him. Lichtman said he had sympathy for Sliwa, but "have you ever seen a guy turn two bullets into a cottage industry like this guy?"

"As for the turncoats, Lichtman said prosecutors should rip up their cooperation agreements for lying on the witness stand. For dramatic effect, he ripped up one of the agreements. But he reserved his most scathing attack for former Gambino crime family capo Michael (Mikey Scars) DiLeonardo, who testified that Gotti was behind the Sliwa attack. DiLeonardo also scoffed at Gotti's claims of quitting the mob in 1999. "He's a lying, thieving, two-faced murderous animal who wouldn't know the truth if it jumped up and bit him on the butt," said Lichtman. The lawyer choked up with emotion when he urged the jury to send a message to the government "that it is not right that they can put this garbage before you."

"He also appealed to jurors with reasonable doubt to "hold on to that like grim death.

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