

8.04 | OPENING STATEMENTS

The trial begins with the opening statements of the plaintiff (or his/her attorney) and the defendant(s) (or his/her attorney(s)). The purpose of an opening statement is to describe the issues in the case and the facts a party intends to prove in support of his/her claim. The plaintiff has the burden of proving that he/she was injured and suffered damages from such injury and that the defendant caused such damages. The plaintiff is allowed to present the opening statement first. This may be followed by a statement by the defendant.

*(US District Court, New York, Western District // Buffalo, NY 14202
Pro Se Litigation Guidelines)*

