

In this paper I attempt to demonstrate how Cicero, though long an opponent of Caesar, his political methods and his rise to power, accepts Caesar as dictator to the extent that he is willing, within the context of arguing on behalf of Ligarius in a court case, to offer Caesar advice on how to best use his power. He does indeed argue on behalf of Ligarius, but uses the opportunity to speak publicly before Caesar as a chance to admonish Caesar to live according the example of leadership he presents to him, by telling Caesar what a ruling for Ligarius would mean for his reputation, how it would enhance his place in history, and so on.

Cicero also weaves in themes which he uses to present a picture of the ideal he wants Caesar to be. For example, he laces such themes as *clementia* throughout his defense argument, alluding to Caesar's use of the term as a policy for treatment of his opponents during the civil war. Yet Cicero does not use the term as Caesar used it; he redefines it to correspond to his own republican ideals, while at the same time appealing to Caesar as supreme power and judge. The orator thus indirectly imposes aspects of his political philosophy upon a man who had for so long threatened the embodiment of that philosophy—namely, the republic. Cicero also lends weight to his argument in repeated references to the earlier case of Marcellus, a Pompeian whom Caesar had pardoned. Cicero insists that not only must Ligarius be pardoned so that Caesar may be consistent in his justice, but also so as to solidify the peace of the state, in keeping Caesar's victory as peaceful and merciful as possible. Cicero uses the opportunity to appeal to Caesar, now in a position of power hitherto unsupported by Cicero, to manage his power according to Cicero's ideals. He thereby offers the man who posed the greatest threat to republican rule an almost-republican model for governance. After examining Cicero's methods in the *Pro Ligario*, Cicero's attempt at constructing an exemplar for Caesar to follow becomes evident, even while Cicero ostensibly argues a very straightforward court case.