

When Marcus Tullius Cicero decided to become a lawyer, he had no idea how much of a lasting impact he would make on future Roman society. Along with his great writings about philosophy and other speeches, Cicero made a name for himself the day he took on a case against Gaius Verres. Verres was a man known for corruption who was a governor of Sicily. Going against Quintus Hortensius Hortalus, both collected evidence and testimonials that supported their cases. With the case ending in favor of Cicero, his fame was forever imprinted in law. Verres was doing many unfaithful things to try and win against Cicero. Verres attempted to buy the judges as well as present a false prosecutor for a different case. One of the bigger scandals included Verres trying to delay the conclusion of the trial until the following year so people he was friends with could be on his side in the courtroom. Cicero called out all of these actions and changed the way we do court today by instead of dragging out the evidence with long speeches, we get right to the point. He presented witnesses and evidence way sooner in the trial, in order to wrap it up a little faster. This may not seem like a huge deal, but compared to how long these trials would have taken, this was revolutionary. It caused the case to end almost immediately and gave Cicero his big break. Another thing that Cicero did differently was make all of Verres' other crimes known, to cast doubt on his validation. He called out the judges and told them not to be coerced into in-honest decisions solely because of who Verres was. Cicero worked hard to alienate Verres and make him look rather human compared to how he was usually perceived in the past. Doing this made taking him down rather easy for Cicero. After beating Hortalus, who was known as the best lawyer at the time, Cicero immediately became the new best of the best. He was risky and bold, but also smart, opening up new connections and opportunities to later confront other top dogs in Rome at the time. If this case would have involved anyone but Verres, someone who was not high in power or able to control the courts, Cicero's victory would not have been a big deal. But due to the nature of the defendant, Cicero will now go down in history as the greatest speaker in the ancient world.