

Jurors to deliberate Jamaican reggae star's fate

Jurors in the trial of Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton will start deliberating the artiste's fate on Friday.

Judge Jim Moody will give them instructions on the law starting at 8.45 am, after which they will retire to consider their verdict.

Prosecutor James Preston told the panel before the close of court that the case was not about "Mark Myrie the entertainer, but about Mark Myrie the drug dealer."

Earlier, defence attorney David Markus in his closing argument asked the 12-member jury to find his client not guilty on all four counts of drug related charges.

The Jamaica Observer reported that, in a dramatic argument, Markus quoted from the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*, telling the jurors, "Please, ladies and gentlemen, please find Mark Myrie not guilty."

Markus called the gun and wire charges against his client absurd, noting that it showed how desperate the prosecution wanted to convict the Grammy-winning artiste.