

Assigned a Motion for Summary Judgment Week One!

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The first week went by in a flash. It was filled with training sessions, introductions, and some substantive work. Through all of our scheduled events, I was able to learn so much about the firm’s culture and extensive organization. Particularly, our training sessions covered researching, timekeeping, and general administrative matters. We also covered professional development with Paul Lipton, the firm’s Director of Professionalism, Career and Skill Development, which was very insightful. All of our sessions took place virtually, giving the summer associates an opportunity to get some face-time with each other (albeit online). However, it feels great to be showing up to the office and getting to work with the attorneys in person.

The attorneys and staff have been warm and welcoming, offering to help us out whenever we have any questions—and have all stayed true to their promises. All the summer associates get assigned a mentor during our time here. Associate Jens Ruiz is my mentor and I am very grateful to have him. He has made himself available whenever I have questions about the firm, assignments, or even trivial issues. Associate Victor Sanabria, Harris’s mentor, has also been a very helpful resource. Jens and Victor have both gone out of their way to help us transition into the firm and feel at home. Granted, much of our first week was taken up with training, but there was still plenty to do outside of that. By Thursday, we had completed all of our initial training sessions and already received our first assignments from attorneys. Initially, I expected to get small projects here and there and work my way up to the big stuff, but I was surprised to have gotten assigned a motion for summary judgment in the first week! Additionally, I have already worked on research for an evidentiary motion, and am drafting objections to discovery requests.

The firm is certainly keeping us busy but this is exactly the type of experience I came for. Also, it doesn’t hurt that Harris (my fellow Miami summer associate) and I got our own offices with a spectacular view of the city. So far it has been an excellent start to the summer, and I look forward to what’s to come!