

Who Knew Closing Statements Would be Fun?

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This week was packed with various activities and many projects to complete. But first, the week began with some summer associate fun – a virtual escape room. My mentor, Kayla Platt Rady, and I joined summer associates from the Tampa, Miami, and Orlando offices to participate in an escape room, something I'd never done before. The virtual aspect of it was very unique, however, it was nice to finally interact with some of the other summer associates in a more personal, rather than strictly professional setting. I loved that Kayla joined us. I have felt really lucky to have her as my mentor in the office, but she is also just a great person to be around. It's always fun when we get to do something together that doesn't involve work.

Our summer associate seminar this week covered opening and closing statements. It was led by Rob Blank, a Tampa partner, who is one of the firm's most experienced trial lawyers. After the seminar, I began to feel slightly nervous about the Friday workshop where I would be giving a mock closing statement as a plaintiff's attorney. Up until this summer, I have had no litigation exposure, so all of these weekly litigation exercises are very new to me. That is why I feel so thankful to have Kayla and partner David Marsey here to help me learn the necessary litigation skills to do my best in these workshops. This week, they both spent over an hour with me going over how to prepare for a closing argument. I took notes profusely and tried to incorporate all of their tips as I wrote and practiced my argument. When it came time for me to actually perform in front of them, I felt really confident. My nerves had subsided and I actually found the exercise to be fun. I've realized that these weekly litigation workshops have already boosted my public speaking confidence significantly, even though we have only done three so far.

Although I've known this since day one, I can't emphasize enough how Rumberger Kirk's summer associate program is unlike any other. The firm truly invests in us and allows us to come away with practical experience and exposure to all aspects of litigation. Moreover, I don't believe there is any other firm so invested in mentorship. There are partners in my office who will take time out of their day to simply talk with me and offer advice. This week especially, showed me how much the associates and partners care about our success. Overall, I am very thankful for this week and am proud to see how far I have come since the beginning of this program.