

## ***Appellate Brief on Week One? Bring It!***

Harris Blum, University of Miami

My first week at RumbergerKirk was a blast, to say the least. Not only was it my first week in the office, but it was also, for many attorneys and support staff, their first week returning to the office after working remotely for the duration of the pandemic. The build-up reminded me of the first day of school.

Upon arriving Monday morning, Carlos Llanos led me to my office (really, partner Jacey Kaps' office), which is not just any office, but a corner office with a spectacular view of Southwest Miami, including Biscayne Bay. It wasn't long before my mentor, associate Victor Sanabria, stopped by my office and laughed, "If this is your office, I feel like I should be working for you!"

But the fun didn't end there. My first few days were jam-packed with breakfasts and lunches, office tours and meet-and-greets, and IT training and seminars. One highlight was Thursday's luncheon with the Miami office's attorneys. It started with associate Brittney Polo's case brief about new case law that will impact one of the firm's biggest client teams. Then, associate Erin Weinstock shared pictures of her doggo with us while we ate lunch. The chemistry in the room was tangible.

For the first time, I sat down at my desk on Friday morning with a clear schedule for the day. Although that didn't last very long, I was eager to roll up my sleeves, start my first assignment, and showcase my skills. That first assignment was at the behest of partner Josh Lerner, who asked me to review a motion he was filing that night. The case involved the alleged breach of an annuities contract—a subject wholly unfamiliar to me. It was a pleasure to read Josh's motion and learn more about annuities in the process.

After going over Josh's motion, Victor asked me to research an issue relevant to an upcoming deposition. I suppose Victor was satisfied with my research because he invited me to sit in on the deposition. For that experience, I cannot wait.

My final assignment was the icing on the cake. Partner Steve Smith asked me to draft an appellate brief. Having just completed an internship at the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, this assignment is right up my alley. I can't wait to see what else is in store for my second week!