

## ***Time Flew by Week One, Feels Good to Get Started***

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I can hardly believe it's already the end of my first week as a summer associate at RumbergerKirk! My first day in the Birmingham office was also the office's official reopening date since many attorneys have been working remotely during the COVID pandemic. It was so nice to meet everyone in person after I had interviewed with and gotten to know them on Zoom. Life almost feels normal again with everyone in the office and vaccinated. This week has been jam-packed with training sessions, welcome calls, and meeting new people. I've learned so many new things that I'm sure I'll have trouble remembering them all, but I loved meeting everyone who works at the firm, including the other summer associates, and learning the basics of what I'll be doing. Everyone that I've met has been so kind and helpful, and they've made me feel very welcome. I even have my own office with a window!

On Thursday, we finished with our training and I started getting my first projects from attorneys in the Birmingham office. It's so exciting to collaborate with such successful attorneys on their cases! So far, all of my projects have come from different areas of law. They involve different tasks and skills, and their deadlines range from two days to two weeks. I think this summer will help me learn to balance a wide array of projects that come from different attorneys and have different timelines which is a very important skill in legal practice. All of my projects are very interesting, and I'm looking forward to finding the answers the attorneys asked of me.

Friday was my first day with nothing official on the schedule. It was nice to be able to come into work and divide up my time in my own way, rotating between different projects and checking things off my to-do list. On Friday afternoon, my mentor, associate Fred Clarke, and I went to lunch with Rebecca Beers, a partner in the Birmingham office. Rebecca and I both went to Birmingham-Southern College for our undergraduate degrees, and we found out that we know a lot of the same people. The food was amazing, and it was great to get to know Fred and Rebecca better! They and all the attorneys in the Birmingham office have given me lots of good advice this week, about everything from trial techniques to IT issues to which classes I should take in my last year in law school. They've also shared some amazing stories about their own legal practice, trials they've participated in, and lessons they learned as young lawyers. I know this summer is going to be an incredible learning experience for me because I've already learned so much, and I'm only one week in! I'm really looking forward to the rest of the summer.