

Finally, Everyone is in the Office at the Same Time!

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Week 3 of the Summer Associate program is on the books! I've had a great time getting to know the Birmingham office better this week, and I've been getting so much free food that my fridge at home is full of leftovers. On Tuesday, I went to lunch with Pete Tepley, a partner who I haven't had a chance to do work for yet. He took me to a great Mediterranean place that I had never been to before. On Wednesday, I went to lunch with Jimmy Walsh, the administrative partner, and his team. We had a great time and I learned a lot more about one of the cases I'm working on for Jimmy right now. On Thursday, I went to lunch with partner Scott Williams and his friend Eva Dillard. Eva works for the Black Warrior Riverkeeper, a local non-profit environmental organization. Scott set up the meeting because he knows I have an interest in environmental law, and he also wants to do some pro-bono and collaborative work with the organization in the future. It was so nice to meet Eva, and it's great that RumbergerKirk encourages its attorneys to get involved with their communities and causes they're passionate about.

Friday was a big day! We had our first office meeting in Birmingham since everyone has come back from quarantine. One attorney gets assigned to present on an interesting topic at each meeting, and Pete presented on a couple of recent Supreme Court cases to the group for this one. We asked questions about the cases and talked about their possible implications, and it was nice to meet in a group and share ideas and thoughts with each other. After the meeting, the summer associates had the motion practice workshop, in which we had to argue a motion to compel arbitration in front of one of the partners. I was very nervous to begin with, but the advice we had gotten from the motion practice seminar the previous week was really helpful. I liked getting to argue against one of the other summer associates, and I felt like it made me think about the issue in ways I hadn't before. Tampa partner Allan Rotlewicz, who ran the workshop, gave me very useful feedback at the end of the argument and I don't think I'll be so nervous when I have to argue in front of a judge in a real case.

So far this summer, I've worked on a lot of different projects from various areas of law. I've really enjoyed all of the projects and the feedback I've gotten from the attorneys has been very helpful. This week, I got to draft my first official court document! It's strange to think that something I've written will end up filed with a court, but my motion to compel is being reviewed by my mentor Fred Clarke right now, and then it will be ready to submit! I'm so excited to know that I'm doing real legal work that will have significance to real cases and clients.