

Middle of the Summer and Each Week is Better than the Last

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Week Four was a big week in Summer Associate world! As we approach the middle of the summer, we're wrapping up our seminars on different aspects of trial preparation, and I'm getting to sit in on more real events with the Birmingham attorneys.

On Monday, the Summer Associates all participated in a virtual escape room game. I had never done an escape room before, but it was a lot of fun! I was surprised by how well it worked in virtual format. It was nice to get to know and work with some of the other associates in a more fun environment, and my team worked together really well. We made it out of the escape room with 12 minutes to spare!

On Wednesday, I got to attend my first real deposition with Rebecca Beers, one of the partners in the Birmingham office. I was so excited to tag along, and Rebecca and I got a lot of time to talk on the drive to the deposition location. It was interesting to see how she framed her questions to get the witness to talk about the points she wanted to bring out. Before the deposition started, she told me what she was looking to learn from the witness, and we went over the answers he had given on the way back to the office. I learned a lot from her about depositions, and it was nice to see a real one after doing the deposition workshop earlier in the summer.

On Friday, I sat in on my first hearing. The case was pretty complicated, but I enjoyed trying to sort out the arguments that the different parties made. Jimmy Walsh, also partner in Birmingham, questioned one of the other parties during the hearing, and he gave me some great advice after it was over. I even got a new research assignment based on something that came up during the hearing, and I liked seeing where the question came from and then finding the answer to it.

Friday was also the day of our closing argument workshop. This workshop was different because we each got feedback not only from Rumberger attorneys, but also from the other summer associates. I went very last in my group, and I was a little nervous to follow all the other associates who had done such great jobs! I enjoyed giving the closing argument once I started though, and my nerves went away pretty quickly after I settled into the argument that I had practiced. Afterwards, I got very helpful tips and advice from the other attorneys and summer associates. I'm glad that I'm getting to learn trial skills in a supportive environment surrounded by attorneys with lots of experience.