

## ***Attending a Deposition in Week One***

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My first week at RumbergerKirk (Orlando) provided me with so many new and exciting experiences! To begin, we were welcomed on the first day that everyone returned to the office since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. After our welcome breakfast, it was wonderful to see a law firm filled with such lively people. From the secretaries to the attorneys and everyone in between, everyone was so pleasant to be around! Generally, the conception is that lawyers and law firms are boring, but it is clear that RumbergerKirk challenges that notion. And as the days went on, the camaraderie became more and more evident.

Before the day was over, I received my first research assignment. Not only was it my first ever assignment in a law firm, but it was an issue of national concern. Not many can say that they were involved in a high-profile legal issue in their lifetime, never mind a summer associate during their first week of work. It was so exciting to be a part of an issue that truly has an impact on the lives of people in this nation.

Throughout the week, we attended virtual trainings with the summer associates in the other four offices (Birmingham, Tallahassee, Tampa, and Miami). We learned tips on legal research and writing, the ins and outs of the filing system, and how to time keep and bill. I am so excited that we have the opportunity to meet everyone in-person throughout the summer at our workshops and for our final mock trials this summer. The Orlando summer associates also had the opportunity to attend a seminar on professionalism and ethics presented by the Federal Bar Association at the federal courthouse for the Middle District of Florida. At this seminar, we listened to two private attorneys—one in criminal practice and the other in civil—and Judge Byron of the Middle District of Florida. I previously held an internship in a Florida state court, however, this was my first time in a federal courtroom! The experience was invaluable. After the seminar, myself and the other associates, Graham and Joe, took the initiative to introduce ourselves to Judge Byron and he had great things to say about RumbergerKirk! He was gracious enough to provide the three of us with abundant insight about being successful trial attorneys.

Additionally, I attended my first deposition with partner Suzanne Hill. Suzanne and I followed up with each other after the deposition where she explained to me strategy, and the dos and don'ts of taking depositions. We then reviewed objections and discussed Suzanne's time on the University of Florida's trial team, which I am currently a member of! It's pretty cool how much you can have in common with a seasoned partner even as a fledgling law student. I am so excited to see what new opportunities present themselves during week two and throughout the summer!