

## ***Selected to be a Florida Gubernatorial Fellow!***

Elizabeth Pearce, Florida State University

This week was a whirlwind because of the long weekend. On Tuesday, we received our prompt for the writing competition. We were assigned to write a motion and memorandum of law to exclude expert opinion testimony. Because I haven't taken Evidence yet, I have had to teach myself some of the basics in order to understand the law controlling expert opinions. On that note, another cool thing about working at Rumberger this summer is that I have gotten to learn so much about Evidence just through practical experiences with the different workshops. They have given me good exposure to the subject and I feel confident that when I take the class in fall, I will have a good understanding of the concepts ahead of time.

Later in the week, I unfortunately was feeling a bit under the weather. Luckily, however, I had IT help me set up my laptop earlier this summer to allow me to work from home. Although I definitely prefer being in the office, the ability to work from home when I wasn't feeling my best was very convenient. Hopefully, that is the last time I have to work from home.

On a happier note, Angela Sterley, the firm's Director of Human Resources, came to visit us in the Tallahassee Office this week. It was so fun to finally meet her in person! She took my mentor, another associate, and I all to lunch downtown. We had a great time talking and I got to discuss the upcoming mock trial with her. Overall, it was a great day.

This week also flew by for other exciting reasons. Earlier this summer, I was selected to be a Florida Gubernatorial Fellow, and my orientation happened this week. Initially, I was very worried about missing work for orientation, however, I have received nothing but positive support from my office about my fellowship. It is so nice to work in this kind of environment! What is even more awesome, however, is the interest I have received from agencies because of my work this summer at Rumberger. A huge part of the fellowship program is that a fellow gets matched with a state executive agency. On Friday, I attended a luncheon where agency representatives tried to recruit certain fellows to work at their agency for the duration of the school year. I heard repeatedly from multiple agencies that the litigation and research skills I am gaining this summer makes me one of their top candidates. It was very exciting to hear, and it proved to me once again that the skills and experiences provided through this summer associate program are truly unmatched. I am so thankful every day to be here!