

Learning From a Master Trial Attorney

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It was another great week at RumbergerKirk? Yes. You participated in a direct/cross-examination workshop? Yes.

Week 5 has brought even more cases, even more assignments, and, of course, even more workshops!

We began the week by taking part in a direct and cross-examination workshop with Miami partner Steve Smith. From the outset, you could tell that he had quite some experience in the art of examination techniques, partly based on his relaxed tone and ability to turn a phrase. Practice makes perfect. And that is exactly what we did after having a few days to prepare a mock direct examination. It was our job to direct Steve as a witness and have him lead the jury to the conclusion that we were after. However, it was much harder than anticipated, especially with having a seasoned trial attorney on the stand! It is really such a great experience to take part in these workshops! The partners of the firm have taken the time to educate us on important trial topics and strategies, both of which have greatly improved my advocacy skills.

But the first-hand experience didn't stop there. On Wednesday, we were invited to sit in on a mediation between quite a few litigants. It was such a unique experience to be able to observe an actual mediation in action and gather a more complete understanding of the process as a whole. I must add that this experience is necessary, especially in civil litigation, as Florida rules order a mandatory mediation for every case on the docket. The ability to both advocate zealously for your client and at the same time make informed decisions that are in their best interest is definitely a skill that is not perfected overnight. I will definitely take what I have learned in that process with me throughout the rest of my legal career.

Last but not least, we were presented with the amazing opportunity to spend a morning at the federal courthouse. From learning the ins and outs of federal court to receiving a quick brush-up on federal jurisdiction, we did it all! Although litigating in federal court is quite the daunting task, I am looking forward to having that opportunity to showcase my skills on a federal level.

Every day I learn a new skill, or study a new area of law. The legal field is very special in the way that every day, as you will even hear from experienced attorneys, you will learn something new. Always keeping you on your toes. Always reminding you of your fascination for the field.