

Definitely Feels Like Being a Lawyer

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This week, I had a ton of new research assignments to tackle. I feel a lot more effective at legal research now that I have gotten so many different assignments and had a lot of feedback. We normally handle mostly Florida case law in our research, but this week I had to research a few different states, which just adds another layer. This experience is invaluable.

I prepared my first jury instructions this week. I have never read jury instructions before, so this was completely uncharted water for me. It was for a negligence case, and I had to compile documents to be used from the beginning to the end of the trial. Luckily, there were a lot of examples available from lawyers at Rumberger, and I was able to import a lot of the standard jury instructions from the Supreme Court of Florida. This helped me see the big picture of a trial in a new way and was a unique opportunity for me.

I finished a motion for fraud on the court this week. This was the first motion I've written. It is a much different process than memo writing, which is what I have mostly done. It is a lot of fun to chart out the legal standard and advocate why the case at bar fits it. I really enjoy seeing the practical side of what attorneys actually do before the court. On top of the motion, I also got to attend a status conference for a pending case with a partner, the judge, and opposing counsel. This week really increased my exposure to how cases really work and move along.

The summer associates received our writing prompt for the writing competition, and this took up some time this week and is sure to take up a lot of time going forward. We are writing a *Daubert* motion to exclude expert witness testimony. This is a very involved activity, as there is a lengthy deposition and exhibits to go through, and it is our job to research the legal standard and apply it to the case. It feels kind of like solving a puzzle to me, which I think is fun, but the deposition is pretty technical so it is going to be a lot of work!

Can't wait for another great week!