

Jury Selection, Jury Instructions & Chocolate Making

Joseph Tracy, Florida State University

This week, the Orlando summer associates went to see a jury selection for a criminal trial. It was fascinating to get to be in the courtroom watching real lawyers make decisions which could change the outcome of a high stakes case. We got to meet with the judge in chambers and go to lunch with her too, which was an unforgettable experience. She gave us so much great insight into how lawyers and judges operate in the courtroom. I am very lucky to have gotten to be there.

We came later in the week to see the trial, but it got continued over some evidentiary issues. That was a little disappointing, but I am glad to have gotten to see up close and personal how the trial process really plays out.

I continued to get more and more assignments this week. I worked on some jury instructions all week for a case in federal court set to be tried soon. The partner who assigned it to me gave me lots of helpful feedback and insight which I put into the instructions. Getting to work around so many smart and experienced attorneys is one of the best things about the summer associate program.

In addition to the jury instructions, I worked on the writing competition problem, which is to write a *Daubert* motion and incorporated memorandum of law. The problem is a breach of warranty, and the expert witness is testifying about some alleged defects in Plaintiffs' Toyota Prius. This has really forced me to think hard about each aspect of the facts in the deposition fit with the *Daubert* standards for reliability. I have benefitted a lot from getting to work on this problem and I'm looking forward to the feedback I know I'm going to get from the attorneys who review our submissions.

The mock trial competition problem was unveiled this week. It is a suit for wrongful death and negligence due to the death of a college student at a frat party. It definitely seems like it is going to be a lot of fun to work on this in the coming days and weeks. There are a lot of great details and drama that bring the problem to life and will provide plenty of ammo for both sides to argue. Which is good, because all teams must prepare for both sides of the problem.

Lastly, the summer associates all got to do a virtual at-home chocolate making class. This was a lot of fun. I could barely stop myself from eating the chocolate chips they gave us. The chocolate is so good and there was a ton of it. I gave some to my friends who loved it too. It was a great start to the weekend.

Looking forward to next week!