

Made it to the Courtroom...Sort of

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The second half of the summer is really flying by! The long weekend for July 4th was a nice chance to relax, and I felt ready to come back to work for the short week on Tuesday. I was busy for most of this week with writing my first complaint for a case. I really enjoyed brainstorming with some of the Birmingham attorneys about what causes of action we could bring, and which were the best fit for the facts in the case. After we felt like we had a good list, I got to work researching the elements of each cause of action and putting together the facts in a persuasive narrative. As I went through each count, I made notes about what facts I still needed to know and which counts wouldn't be as easy to prove. This is the most difficult document I've written so far, but I think it's also been the most rewarding. Even though I've written a few other court documents this summer, I get excited every time I get to submit something I've worked on to a judge. I'm so glad I'm getting the chance to work with a firm that lets me take on serious assignments!

I also got a chance to go to a courthouse for the first time this summer on Friday. The hearing we were supposed to attend was actually postponed, but it was nice to be able to see the inside of the courtroom. The hearing has been rescheduled for next week, so I'll have more updates about it then!

Throughout this summer, I've gotten to work on several pro bono cases as well as cases for regular firm clients. I'm glad to be working with clients who ordinarily might not have access to legal representation and resources. The attorneys in the office have made it clear that they care just as much about their pro bono cases as all the others, and I've been impressed by the firm's focus on these types of cases. Many of the attorneys I've worked with so far are also involved with various legal and service-oriented groups in Birmingham, which provide great ways to help people and stay connected to the community.

This week, the summer associates received our writing competition prompt, which asks us to write a motion and memorandum of law to exclude an expert. I'm really excited about this assignment because I love to write, and I feel like it comes more naturally to me than making a verbal argument. I'm hoping this competition will give me an opportunity to improve my writing skills even more, especially my ability to write persuasively and advocate for my client. The writing competition is the last assignment before the mock trial. I can't believe it's almost here!