

## ***Actually Made it to the Courtroom This Week!***

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As we get closer to the end of the summer, I feel like time just keeps going faster! This week has really flown by, and there are a lot of things going on for the summer associates.

On Monday, I got to attend the criminal hearing that had been rescheduled from last week. I had never been to a hearing in the Birmingham courthouse before, and I was excited to watch the procedure. Partner Jimmy Walsh and I arrived in the courtroom for a general meeting of all the cases the judge had pending for that day. After holding initial hearings with several defendants, the judge started moving through the cases that had been settled. It was so interesting to see the different charges and settlement agreements that the cases involved. I also noticed how many of the defendants needed to have an attorney appointed for them from the public defender's office, and it made me realize the importance of access to legal representation.

On Tuesday, a legal services firm that provides deposition services brought lunch to the Birmingham office. The food was great, and it was nice to meet new people and spend time catching up with everyone in the office. That night, we all went to a Birmingham Barons' baseball game after work and had a great time! Almost everyone from the office was there, and some people even brought friends or family members. It was lots of fun to relax at the game, and it was nice to be in a crowded stadium again after so long in lockdown!

On Wednesday, I went to the Birmingham Rotary Club with partner Rebecca Beers, who is a member and officer there. I also got to meet Mike Rediker, the last member of the Birmingham office that I hadn't had a chance to meet yet. I was amazed at how many attorneys from Birmingham attend the meetings, and Mike introduced me to many of his friends who have been practicing law for years. Even though Birmingham isn't as big as a city like Atlanta, I was impressed at how much experience and support you can find here.

On Friday, the summer associates finally got our mock trial problem. I was so excited to get the materials after looking forward to the trial all summer! My trial partner Graham Marcus and I plan to meet virtually next week to start assigning parts and setting up practice times. To finish out the week, on Friday night, the summer associates took a chocolate making class on zoom from our home kitchens. I wasn't sure how the class would work on zoom, but it turned out really well and was a lot of fun! I've already eaten way too many of the things we made, and I loved getting to know the other summer associates better. Get ready for mock trial madness next week!