

Half the Summer has Blown By

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Five weeks down, five more to go! We have officially completed half of our summer program, yet I feel as if I have learned and progressed above and beyond what I would consider my “halfway point.” I attribute this to the vast variety of practical assignments RumbergerKirk has provided us with. I can only imagine how I will feel at the end of the ten weeks.

With each submission of an assignment, I grow a degree of confidence. I can and I really am doing this! It’s especially gratifying when I hear the assigning attorney’s thoughts on my work product. I’ve said it before and I will say it again- you can really tell how much everyone in this office is rooting for you to grow and succeed.

During week five, I was fortunate enough to attend two mediations. The first consisted of a high-stakes complex business litigation involving six major attorneys. As imaginable, this was a lengthy and multifaceted mediation. However, I was thoroughly engaged through it all! In fact, I was prepared to stay after hours in hope of seeing a resolution for our client. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and there was no resolution in sight. But the mediation is planned to continue at a later date and I am hoping that it will happen before the summer ends!

The second mediation I participated in was a complete one-eighty. There were only two parties and one issue to discuss. It still lasted a good portion of the day but this one ended in a resolution! And one that I certainly was not expecting to happen. Our client came with a real desire to settle. I think that is a huge influence on the success of mediations—every party must have a real desire to settle. As a bonus, it was really cool to see my mentor, Michaela Kirn, in action!

Moreover, in week five, we attended a direct and cross examination seminar and workshop. Miami partner Steve Smith gave us sharp tips on effective and engaging examinations. This was the first time I questioned a witness without thorough preparation of the witness beforehand and it went well! Steve definitely took me through my question outline quicker than I planned, but it was a great opportunity to implement his advice that repetition is not always something we should fear in a witness’s testimony.

Finally, we attended a “morning at the federal courthouse” event at the Orlando division for the Middle District of Florida. There, Magistrate Judge Hoffman thoroughly educated us in the federal rules of civil procedure and the local rules for the Middle District. Additionally, I was able to speak with Magistrate Judge Irick whom I have previously worked with through the Florida Moot Court Team. It was such a pleasure to speak with

each other in-person as opposed to zoom. But the best part was seeing RumbergerKirk's very own Vaughn Ginton as a panelist speaking on federal clerkships. In my opinion, he stole the show!