

Mock Trial Prep, Multicultural Festival & Karaoke Oh My!

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The Mock Trial Competition is under way and team practices are in full force. My mentor and I met with my partner, Elizabeth, and her mentor for our first team practice. To prepare for practice, I accomplished writing two direct-examinations and two cross-examinations in a matter of hours. That definitely took a bit out of me, but at the same time it really got me pumped for what was to come. Having to prepare both sides of a case can be complex but it trains you to anticipate the opposing party's arguments—which is a key skill for successful trial attorneys.

Along with week eight came the annual multicultural lunch! The firm requested submissions for restaurants to cater the lunch. Our receptionist, Tiy, submitted P&D Soul Food Kitchen and provided some background on the history of soul food. Here's what she shared:

“During the transatlantic slave trade, enslaved Africans were given meager food rations that were low in quality and nutritional value. With these rations and with available resources, enslaved people preserved African food traditions and adapted traditional recipes. Over time, these recipes and techniques became the soul food dishes that are familiar today. This food genre, now associated with comfort and decadence, was born out of struggle and survival.”

The insight Tiy provided us with allowed me to get a deeper understanding and appreciation of not only soul food but her culture as whole. It is important that businesses take efforts, such as RumbergerKirk did here, to bring everyone together and provide these educational opportunities in a fun and positive manner. There is so much that we can all learn from each other.

After, Sally planned a Karaoke Happy Hour for us at a new Hawaiian-themed location in Downtown Orlando. To be honest, I do not frequent karaoke events (this is for the sake of everyone else's ears). However, I managed to get up and sing three different times! I don't know what got into me. I am thinking it was Steve Klein's fearless rendition of “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” or maybe it was another summer associate, Joe's, performance of “Roxanne.” If anyone in the office needs a lesson on how to hit a high note, I recommend you stop by Joe's office.

Entertaining things aside, next week is our final week of preparation for the mock trial. I foresee many early mornings and late nights in my future. Got to get to it!