

One Great Summer

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This past week marked our last and most exciting. All of the summer associates met in Orlando for Rumberger's annual mock trial competition.

The experience was one to remember. Sunday, we gathered in the conference room for a tour of the Orlando office and we received our pairings shortly after. As soon as we learned what side of the case we would be arguing we hit the ground running. I got to work with my mock trial partner, Joe Tracy, all day Sunday. It was a nice change of pace collaborating in-person in contrast to our numerous virtual practices the past few weeks. After a long day of preparation, we were treated to some dinner at Tin & Taco. We then retired to our hotel across the street from the office to get some needed sleep for the competition the next day. I went in the first round with Joe against Graham Marcus and Julie Potts, and they were some fierce competition. Graham had clearly had some trial team experience, and while Julie had not done a mock trial before, she excelled in her role. The round was certainly contentious, but I am proud of all our efforts. Unfortunately, both rounds went well over-time so there was no time for a championship round. Nonetheless, it was an overall excellent learning experience.

Before this mock trial, I was working on preparing for an actual trial. I have been helping Partner Mike Holt with a motion in limine to exclude documents on an asbestos case. After submitting my first draft, we decided to add a second objection on different grounds. Once I finished with this, I moved on to drafting jury instructions for the same case. I had never written jury instructions so it was a challenge getting this together in a short window of time. Even so, I rose to the occasion and got it done. I am looking forward to seeing how the trial turns out!

As this summer comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on this program. I owe a lot to every attorney and staff-member of this firm; especially those at the Miami office who welcomed any and all of my question. I will not soon forget my time at Rumberger and I look forward to taking this experience with me and applying it to my future work.