## Rumberger Kirk

## What a Great Experience!

Elizabeth Pearce, Florida State University

After what seems like the shortest 10 weeks of my life, my summer at Rumberger has finally come to an end. I truly cannot believe how fast this program flew by. As I sit here writing this post, it's hard to find the words to describe how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to work at this firm.

I'll be honest, the thought of competing in the mock trial made me a bit nervous since the start of the summer. But my mentors in the Tallahassee office have been there every step of the way to make sure I was as prepared as possible. And all of the hard work my partner and I had put in throughout the past two weeks finally paid off on Monday when we got the chance to compete. I am so proud of the both of us for our performance. Meghan won best advocate, and she was so deserving! I'm also really proud of myself because competing in this mock trial was far outside of my comfort zone, yet I managed to do it and was really happy with how my opening and my direct examination went. I also had the best time getting to meet the other summer associates. They are such an impressive group of people and I feel lucky to know them. I know they are all going to do such great things throughout their careers. Hopefully, we will all stay in touch!

This week, I'm going to be tying up some loose ends and finishing a couple of projects. I'll also be saying goodbye to my group in the Tallahassee office, a group that feels much more like family than it does a group of coworkers. The thought of it makes me so sad because I'm going to miss them terribly! But I know that we will stay in touch, especially because I'm going to be here for school throughout this year. Again, this has been such an incredible summer. It has shown me that I'm capable of doing things I never thought I could do, and it also showed me that litigation is something I can see myself doing in the future. If you asked me that a year ago, I would have thought you were crazy! Most importantly, however, this program connected me to incredible lawyers and lawyers-to-be, and I wouldn't trade my experience for anything.