

Mock Trial: What a Blast!

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Mock trial time has arrived! I can't believe it's already here and we're on our last week of the summer! My partner Graham and I spent Friday and Saturday practicing our parts for both sides of the trial, and we did a full run through on Friday afternoon. It's amazing to think about all the things I know now that I didn't know two weeks ago. I've taken trial advocacy in law school, but I haven't taken evidence yet or done moot court team. So much of this process was new to me, and Graham was so great to help fill me in on the things I didn't know! After spending the last two weeks working on mock trial, I feel so much more confident than I did when we first started practicing.

On Sunday morning, I flew down to Orlando from Birmingham. I finally got to meet all of the other summer associates in person! We also met Angela Sterley, Director of HR and attorney Patrick Delaney, who were in charge of the competition, in person for the first time. All of the summer associates spent Sunday afternoon practicing for the trial, and we each got to use the conference room in the Orlando office, where the trial was actually going to take place. It was a relief to figure out which side we would be representing so that we could focus all of our energy on one point of view. Graham and I were defense counsel, which, luckily, is what we would have wanted if we'd gotten to choose.

Our team was in the first round of the trial on Monday morning. I was so nervous! Once we got started, though, the nerves basically went away, and I really started to enjoy myself. I didn't think I'd be able to relax and have fun during the trial, but it was so easy to get caught up in the arguments and objections and start having a good time! One thing I've learned from the mock trial experience is that you can spend as much time planning as you want, but something will probably happen to surprise you when the real thing comes. Even though Graham and I had practiced for two weeks and talked about what we thought would happen, the other team (Joe and Andres) made a couple of good arguments that caught me off guard! It was fun to try to think of counterarguments on the spot.

Overall, I really enjoyed the mock trial experience. I feel like I know so much more about trial now, and I had a lot of fun during the trial itself. I also loved getting to meet all of the summer associates and the people from the Orlando office! On Sunday night, Angela and Patrick took us to dinner, and we had a happy hour at the office on Monday night after the trial. The summer associates went out together for dinner after the trial, too. We had a great group this year! Congratulations to Harris and Adam for winning the mock trial and to Meghan for winning best advocate!