

Great End to a Great Summer

Meghan Kennedy, University of Florida

And just like that, the summer came and went. I am feeling a mix of emotions- joy that I survived, sadness because I am leaving, and appreciation for everything I have learned this summer. Week nine was spent mostly on preparation for the Mock Trial Competition. My partner, Elizabeth Pearce, and I spent a lot of time texting and meeting virtually. The experience made us feel as if we had been long-time friends, and I am grateful for that and the friendship that will continue between us.

The Mock Trial brought all of the summer associates together to Orlando for the first time. Our time together felt like we had been working in the same office the entire summer. Conversation flowed and everyone was so down to earth. I had only been around these people for 48 hours and yet saying goodbye wasn't easy. Andres, Harris, Julie, Elizabeth, Adam, Joe and Graham are truly a special group of young advocates and I am fortunate to have the ability to work alongside them this summer. The same goes for all of the staff and attorneys at RumbergerKirk- everyone has made a lasting impression that I will always carry with me.

The Mock Trial Competition was a blast. Early that morning, I was consumed with nerves and fear that I was underprepared. However, those feelings quickly changed the moment I stepped into the "courtroom." Surprisingly, arguing objections was my favorite part of the trial. Elizabeth and I wanted to take a clean approach of preparing non-objectionable material and I think that was a beneficial strategy, but we certainly did not hold back when it was our turn to defend our case. I want to give a special shout out to Elizabeth for keeping up the whole time even though this was her very first trial.

I was fortunate enough to receive the Best Advocate Award, but I truly think each of the summer associates equally deserves to wear that title. It was clearly evident how much hard work and dedication was put into this trial by each and every one of them. I would also like to take a moment to thank partners Suzanne Hill and David Marsey for taking the time out of their busy schedules to work with myself and my team. Their knowledge and expertise proved extremely useful and I will continue to implement their skills throughout my career.

I think the best part of the trial would be how proud Elizabeth and I made our mentors, Kayla Platt-Rady and Michaela Kirn. They too took time out of their busy schedules to help us prepare for this trial. I might be biased, but I think they might be two of the best mentors a summer associate could have.

RumbergerKirk has facilitated an environment conducive to growing and progressing. I cannot imagine that I would be leaving the summer in a better position if I had spent my summer elsewhere. Thank you to everyone for such an amazing experience.