

Week One- Working Hard and Playing Hard

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The start of RumbergerKirk's Summer Associate Program could not have come quickly enough. As soon as finals were finished, my countdown began! When my start date finally arrived, I truly felt like a kid on Christmas morning. Once I arrived at the office, I was greeted by a sea of warm, friendly faces, including my mentor for the summer Jason Bullinger. Law firms are incredibly busy places, so the fact that so many of RumbergerKirk's partners, associates, and staff made time to be available for the welcome breakfast really reflects how much they value their summer associates and the program as a whole.

Although we are spread throughout the various Florida offices, all of the summer associates started off together in the Orlando office. Our training included timekeeping and billing, software and computer training, research tips and tricks, and so much more. We also learned more about the upcoming writing competition and the mock trial competition. By Wednesday, I had already received substantive assignments in practice areas I am working in for the first time. The assignments can be challenging, but that is what makes them rewarding. By Friday, I was polishing and refining my first submission for partner Dan Gerber.

We worked hard to learn the ropes, but we played hard as well! The first evening, partner Patrick Delaney took us out for drinks and dinner. Future associates Megan Kennedy and Graham Marcus took a break from studying for the Bar to meet with us and answer any questions we had about their experiences the summer before. Later in the week, partners Steve Klein and Charlie Mitchell took us for another happy hour where we were also joined by too many associates to name. We all got lost in a conversation about all of the wonderful things Central Florida has to offer. On Friday, paralegal Alyssa Neher, and file clerks Nick Webb, Diana Bronson and Marifel Rosario introduced us to one of their favorite lunch spots. It is a pleasure getting to know the people in the office.