

Week Two- Learning Something New Every Day

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It is almost beyond belief that the second week is already over. The days are flying by! This week, I completed five assignments, primarily small research assignments on 1-3 very narrow issues. As I have worked to draft succinct, easy-to-read memos, I laughed to myself more than once about the depth of work lurking below the surface of a few short paragraphs. I have gained even more respect for the legal profession as it takes a lot of effort to understand a topic well enough to present it in a way that looks like it took no effort at all.

Early in the week, partner Chase Hattaway invited me to watch him depose a witness. The deposition lasted a few hours, and during breaks he repeatedly asked me for my opinion about the witness' testimony and whether I thought there were any questions that he was missing. Chase certainly had this deposition completely under control. Still, I now know that my opinion holds weight at RumbergerKirk, regardless of my status as a rookie. That feels incredibly validating.

In addition to this week's assignments, all summer associates participated in a deposition workshop. During the first part, partner David Marsey presented guidelines and tips for deposing a witness. For the second part, we received a complaint and some discovery documents to use to develop deposition questions. I really enjoyed creating the deposition outline because it was an opportunity to be creative and formulate multiple theories of the case. It was also a learning opportunity. I went into the exercise with the mindset of trying to prove or disprove my theories, but the most important lesson I took from the workshop is that the true goal of deposing a witness is to extract as many facts as possible – not only the ones that suit the argument you are developing. This was a helpful reminder that lawyers are advisors as much as they are advocates. To be the best advisor possible, you have to maximize your knowledge of your case.

Later in the week, partner Dan Gerber invited the Orlando summer associates to listen in on an antitrust meeting. He mentioned that this sort of meeting is uncommon and he would not be surprised if this was one of our only opportunities to experience one in our careers. During the meeting, I learned a little about law and a little about a business model I was previously unfamiliar with. After the meeting, he allotted time for us to ask questions, not only about the meeting, but also about his career path and how he was able to build such a distinguished career for himself. I leaned in, ready for the secret, but his answer was straightforward: network, develop a good reputation in the community, and indulge your sense of curiosity.

Every day I learn something new. I cannot wait to see who I will be this time next week.