

Week Four – An Opening/Closing Statement Seminar, Two Workshops and Moot Court Competition Makes for the Busiest Week Yet!

Hannah Klonowski – Stetson University

This week was the most unique week of this program so far for me because I spent most of it out of the office! It was also probably the busiest week I have had so far, since there seemed to be so much happening. I spent Monday working on assignments and making sure that everything on my to do list would get done on time. On Tuesday morning, the summer associates participated in our Motion Workshop, in which we were arguing on a motion to compel arbitration and we received feedback on our arguments, which was very helpful. Tuesday afternoon, we learned how to give opening and closing statements at trial. I found this particularly useful because I have never seen a trial before and know very little about what goes into making these statements to open and close the trial. Then, on Wednesday and Thursday, I was out of the office all day to compete at the 49th Annual Robert Orseck Moot Court Competition.

The Orseck Moot Court Competition is hosted in conjunction with the Florida Bar Convention, so all of the competitors are judged by Florida lawyers and District Courts of Appeals judges up until the final round. My teammates and I worked very hard in preparation for this competition and it definitely paid off. We won the competition, with the final round being judged by the justices of the entire Florida Supreme Court.

I am so grateful that all of our hard work paid off and we learned so much throughout the course of the competition. And I am also so thankful to everyone at the firm who came to see me argue and support my team--I really appreciated it!

This week was made even more interesting by the fact that all of the summer associates traveled to the Tampa office to complete our Opening and Closing Statement Workshop. I was assigned to write a closing statement for the defense, and it was definitely a challenge trying to find time to brainstorm and draft a statement after competing for moot court. However, I was able to get it done and all of the summer associates received some very useful feedback from Managing Partner of the Tampa office, Rob Blank.

While it was certainly my busiest week of work so far this summer, it was also my most rewarding. I learned so much this week from so many wise judges and talented attorneys, and I'm so grateful for all of the opportunities that have come my way this summer.