

## ***Week Four- Arbitration Presentation and Opening and Closing Statement Practice***

Jordan Benatar- University of Florida

Week four was the most action-packed week thus far this summer. First, I conducted research for partner Doug Ede and associate Loren Korkin's presentation on arbitration for the South Florida Association of Corporate Counsel. Because of my help on the project, I was invited to attend the event at the Hard Rock in Fort Lauderdale. They gave a fantastic presentation. My name was also on the intro slide of the PowerPoint because of the work I did on the presentation, so I of course immediately sent a picture of it to my mom (she was very happy).

Next, Evan and I headed to Tampa Bay to do our mock opening and closing statements in front of partner Rob Blank and others at the Tampa office. I learned a ton from this experience. First, I had never seen an opening or closing statement up until this point let alone write one so having to prepare one was a great learning experience. Then, giving my presentation to a room full of people, including Rob who has argued in more than forty trials, forced me out of my comfort zone. When it was time to give my presentation, I was nervous for the first minute or two, but once I got into the groove of things, I started having fun.

Overall, it was a great week. For me, getting out of my comfort zone is when I grow the most, so I am very thankful to RumbergerKirk for taking the time to set up these workshops for the summer associates, allowing us to gain valuable experience when the stakes aren't so high. That way, we will be prepared when it comes to the real thing.