

## ***Week Four- Feeling Like a Sponge and Soaking Everything In!***

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This week I met my match: case review at the attorney lunch, plus to-back opening statements & closing arguments in Tampa! I started my week off talking with my mentor, Sara, about how to do a case review. Although each summer associate has the opportunity to do a case review at an attorney lunch, I was the first to go in the Orlando office. Needless to say, I was a bit nervous, but Sara was amazing answering all my questions and walking me through it (I should also mention, I had A LOT of questions, so I am very, very thankful she was so patient with me).

I was looking forward to presenting in front of everyone, because the conference room seems like such a cool place to give a presentation. However, Covid-19 strikes again and the lunch ended up being a virtual lunch. Although it's a reminder we are still living in strange times and dealing with Covid, it does make me that much more grateful that we get to be in the office this summer and not totally online the whole time. Plus, the conference room still makes a great place for a selfie!

The case review ended up being a lot of fun, I got to pick new cases that are relevant to the work we do here at the firm and explain the cases and why they are important. Plus, I think I ended up doing a good job which always feels satisfying and I learned a lot about my public speaking skills. Everything I've been doing this summer is a learning experience which is awesome—I really feel like a sponge soaking up everything I can, even when that means learning from constructive criticism.

Speaking of constructive criticism, this week my nerves really got to me with the opening statements and closing arguments workshop. Although Rob Blank and some of the other attorneys from the Tampa office gave an amazing seminar with so much helpful information, this was the most daunting task yet. The importance of the opening/closing of trial seems immense and the record we were given had the most information to get through, so combined with the fact that we had a 10 minute limit made this the toughest workshop yet. But, now I can say I've given my first opening statement, and I know everyone has to start somewhere. Although it was obvious I was nervous, I received a lot of good feedback and I know that it will only help me do better in the future. I can't wait to apply what I learned the next opportunity I get. One down, many, many more to go. I can't wait to see what next week has in store!