

## ***Week Five- Keep the Caffeine Coming-the Weeks Just Keep Getting Busier***

Madison Buckley -University of Florida

I can't believe the summer is already halfway done, time is flying by. I figured out a decadent hack this week (as a result of my need for extra coffee). May I present to you: coffee sweetened with Swiss Miss hot chocolate. Yes, I'm sure this sounds way too extra to some of you, but this week was very, very busy. As a result, I needed a lot of coffee, and I had to get creative with my caffeine. They keep little packs of the mix for the hot chocolate around the office and sometimes in the afternoon I get a sweet tooth so the extra sugar in the coffee was a really nice treat.

This week was our last workshop—the direct and cross examination workshop. Partner Scott Sarason led the team from the Miami office that gave us the seminar and then gave us feedback on our mock witness examination. I think this one was my favorite so far, because the facts we were given made the “witness” we were questioning seem extremely not credible—which gave us the opportunity to really press hard on cross. Also, each of us summer associates got to play the witness for someone else and it was really fun to be so involved in each other's examinations. I think learned a lot about what it's like from the witnesses perspective. We got some amazing feedback from everyone from the Miami office which was awesome, and we heard some cool stories about their experiences as well.

Now it's time to switch gears, and we'll be getting ready for the mock trial soon. We also got the assignment for our writing competition this week which I am really looking forward too. I think it's nice that we have the opportunity to practice skills that we will need for litigation practice, but we also get the opportunity to practice our writing skills. I know everyone has different strengths and weaknesses, and I think this is a great way for us to realize where we are doing well and where we might need more practice. I think the most important thing so far has been listening and learning from the feedback. Everyone makes mistakes or has room for improvement in certain areas, but as long as we learn, adapt, and repeat, then we can become the best at what we are trying to do.

Wish me luck for this upcoming week! Until next time...