

Week Five- Writing with a Founding Partner and Axe Throwing in the Same Week!

Mary Hudson - University of Florida

This week was another whirlwind, but I am also feeling settled in to both my office and the firm. I feel a growing familiarity with where things are located in the office and the staff, partners, and associates that work here. I am developing relationships with the people who work here and it is nice. At the five week mark, I am definitely starting to feel at home in the office.

We completed our last workshop, Direct and Cross Examination, this week with Miami partner Scott Sarason, which I found challenging. Still, I learned a lot and got to see the technique of the other summer associates. If I could redo this workshop I would do a few things differently. But, I developed a stronger foundation for next time which is the type of learning that this experience is meant to foster. To my surprise, direct questioning is a bit more difficult than cross, but actually writing the questions and asking them really illuminated some of the rules of evidence. Seeing the process in real time helped to clarify why some of the rules exist in a way that exceeds the capabilities of the classroom.

In addition, I wrote an article with Dick Caldwell this week about the Apex doctrine. He is one of the founding partners, and it is wonderful that he takes the time to work with summer associates. He is absolutely pleasant and passionate about the law. As always, I put my nerves to the side and set out to create the best work product I could. I focused on using approachable language since the audience was not the court, but the public. The process worked. The article is posted on the website and I could not be more proud. The style of the article was largely informational, but since it was going up on the website there was a marketing aspect as well. Dick Caldwell encouraged me to consider writing a larger piece about how federal law might influence the way Florida moves forward and I would like to actually write the article during the school year.

Just like the previous weeks, there is always time for fun at RumbergerKirk. We went axe throwing with our mentors this week. My mentor, associate Jason Bullinger, is always an excellent resource and very accommodating with his time during the work day, but it was nice to be able to kick back a little bit and chat outside the office. The mentors of the other summer associates were also present, as was our unofficial group mentor associate Samendio Mathieu. It turns out that axe throwing is not one of my strengths, but hanging out was enough fun for me. It is hard to believe the internship is halfway through, but I am excited to soak up as much as I can in the remaining half of the summer.