

Week Seven – Recipe for a Busy Week: A Daubert Motion, Several Substantive Assignments, Case Presentation & Networking

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This week was dominated by the Daubert motion. This was a challenging assignment, but I am happy to have some exposure to writing one before I eventually have to complete one for a client. I worked a long time on it, yet I still could have worked on it longer. I enjoy how familiar each day feels and getting to know the people around me. I am hoping to sweet talk Donna McKeever into giving me her coffee cake recipe!

I am still working on probate matters with partner Brett Carey and I received another assignment from partner Dan Gerber. I also had the opportunity to work with partner Jennifer Thomas for the first time this week. I attended a short matter hearing as well. I also got to put together my first exhibit list, which was nice. The majority of the assignments I receive are substantive – which is a good thing! The exhibit list was more mechanical and almost like a brain break. The most important thing was making sure I did not miss any of the items that need to be used at trial.

My case presentation was this week. I received a pre-presentation pep talk from associate Reginald Guillaume, which helped me to settle my nerves a bit. I spoke about the apex doctrine case I wrote an article about and a bad faith case that was based on jury instructions. The legal issues in the cases I presented on were totally different, but what tied them together for me was how they illuminated the fact that developing a strategy for trying your case is as important as the substantive law.

On Friday, the mock trial problem dropped and the teams were announced. Summer associate Evan Thomas and I are paired as co-counsel and I am excited about the opportunity collaborate and develop a trial strategy. Despite the ever-present nerves, I am eager to get started on the problem.

There were a handful of social events this week. We went to a law clerk reception, which was fun and an opportunity to meet new people. Partner Steve Klein invited us to a BBQ which was very nice. Everything was delicious and it was a nice opportunity to mingle and chat with some of the partners and associates. It was a fun time, but today with the mock trial problem waiting in the wings it is time to get back to work!