

Week Eight – Digging into Mock Trial Preparations

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Week eight was when I realized how much I enjoy mock trial. Last Friday, the Summer Associates were given the official mock trial problem, but this week we were able to try out our material so to speak. My teammate Madison and I conducted three mock trial practice runs, thanks to the attorneys at the Miami office.

Our first practice run was on Tuesday. It consisted of Direct examination. Direct examination is alright, but the witness is really the star, and the lawyer just asks open ended questions. Nevertheless, it is still fun to think up ways to ask the right question so the witness will share what you want them to. On Wednesday, however, we conducted our cross examination, which was extremely fun. Asking the right questions and feeling in control of the examination is a great feeling. On the other hand, it hurts when you ask a bad question and the witness wiggles out. Thinking up questions that keep the witness answering the right way is very difficult but so rewarding when it works out.

Finally, on Friday we conducted our opening and closing statements which was fun too. It's almost like writing a script for a movie or play. There needs to be a theme, and you must follow that theme throughout the entire trial. Opening and closings are also the only times you can directly talk to the jury over the course of the trial. So, you really have to make them count. Overall, I had a blast practicing mock trial. I am so happy Rumberger puts this on for the Summer Associates. Although the mock trial will be nerve-racking when it comes time to argue, I think this experience will be a massive growth moment for me.