

## ***Week Eight – Mock Trial Preparation, New Projects & an Inspection***

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The mock trial preparation is well underway and I continue to be blown away by the support and input offered by the partners and associates in the Orlando office. I rely on the guidance and input of my mentor Jason Bullinger and his open door policy. Additionally, associates Reggie Guillaume and Alex Melvin have gone out of their way to make themselves available for questions and advice. This speaks volumes about the soul of the firm. The associates still have their billable hours to meet, but have created time to engage with the summer associates preparing for the mock trial.

This week, I had the opportunity to work with partner Larry Smith and partner Jennifer Thomas researching and discussing the applicability of regulations to a particular scenario. It was a fun assignment and the most experience that I have had with regulations. I also got to work with partner Dan Gerber again on a very novel area of law. This was a challenge because there was very little to work with, but I tried to supplement my work product with some suggestions.

On Friday, I had the opportunity to travel to Daytona Beach to watch an inspection with associate Sandra Ferrin. I really enjoyed this experience because I got the chance to observe how opposing counsel works together, how competing experts work together, and how lawyers and clients work together. I was surprised to see how congenial the relationships were, even with opposing counsel. One of the attorneys for the plaintiff provided me with some insight on taking the bar exam next year. I came back to the office with a lot of bar prep tips and just in time for the multi-cultural festival! The food was delicious and satisfying after a morning of travel.

On Saturday, a group of summer associates, associates, and partners went to dinner at The Pinery on Lake Ivanhoe. The food and cocktails were delicious and the restaurant itself was fun and full of history. Importantly, I got to try heart of palm for the first time! We talked about a broad range of topics, including travel, gardening, vacation planning, and I even managed to squeeze in some discussion about video games. It was nice getting to know the people of RumbergerKirk at an informal event. If we did not, I might not have had the pleasure of knowing how funny managing partner Frank Sheppard is!

This week is the last chance to get in gear for the mock trial, so I better get back to it! I'll see you in court.