

Week Six- Real Work for Clients and a Care Package!

Mary Hudson – University of Florida

Week Six has been the quietest so far, but this is nice because it is likely a realistic perspective into what the RumbergerKirk team does daily. I spent my days working on a few mini-projects. I completed another assignment for partner Dan Gerber and I worked on double-checking cases cited by opposing counsel in a motion in limine for my mentor Jason Bullinger. I researched very narrow issues this week, and sometimes the result of that has been very few or no binding authorities. My first reaction to this has been disappointment. Still, it has made me realize that finding the perfect answer is equally a part of the profession as being able to say, definitively, that a particular question has no black and white answer. I am starting to understand why my professors have said that lawyers “live in the gray.”

I spent time reading cases and creating a PowerPoint for my upcoming case presentation next week. Partner Sally Culley made time to stop by and give me a crash course on bad faith within the insurance context, which was crucial in understanding the background of one case I am discussing in my presentation. The team at RumbergerKirk places great value on staying abreast of changes and advancements in the law, and for good reason. Learning and growing within the legal industry does not stop after the Bar, in fact it seems to begin anew. This firm is a good place to continue to learn and grow.

The mock trial looms large in the background. I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of the fact pattern and to find out who will be my teammate. Despite the friendship and good will between the summer associates, it will be fun to have a little friendly competition and put some of the lessons and feedback from the workshops into action. I am also looking forward to some teamwork with my assigned co-counsel, whoever that may be.

On Friday, I received an assignment that will be helpful for a few of the attorneys who are going to trial in the coming weeks. For me, getting to work on substantive assignments and assignments that make it into the courtroom is an important part of this experience. I may still be a student, but the work I do at RumbergerKirk matters to more than just me; it matters to the clients.

The highlight of my week was receiving a care package from my oldest friend Dorothy. Right around four in the afternoon on Friday, Teddy from Office Services brought me the package from the mailroom and it just made my day. I get to end the week reminded that there are people both inside and outside the firm who are rooting for me. I am heading into the weekend with a smile on my face.