

Week Ten-Saying Goodbye is Hard to Do!

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My summer here at RumbergerKirk is coming to a close. We completed the Mock Trial on Monday this week and now all that is left is to finish up the remaining assignments we have on our dockets. It has been a fantastic summer. I have not only learned so much and grown from this experience, but have also made friends and connections here at RumbergerKirk that will surely follow me for the rest of my law career in Orlando. It is with a heavy heart I am leaving and Fridays just won't be the same without our weekly happy hour.

The Mock Trial went great. All the summer associates from the Orlando, Miami, and Tampa offices gathered together in the Orlando office for one final time. Getting to see the other offices' summer associates is always a pleasure, and this time was no exception. My partner Samendio Mathieu and I took part in the first trial of the day starting at 9:00 A.M. I was extremely nervous before giving my opening statement, but once I got up there and started making my way through my speech my nerves dissipated very quickly. By the time it was my turn to cross examine a witness, I was having a blast. Samendio and I worked together very well and all of our hard work paid off because we won "Best Team!" It was an honor to receive this award and I am so glad to have had Samendio by my side.

I want to thank all the people who helped me prepare for trial and the judges who gave up their entire day just to help us summer associates grow into better attorneys. This Mock Trial really demystified a lot of aspects of trial for me and I learned so much. The fact that the Mock Trial is over feels very surreal. I am so proud of both myself and my partner Samendio for getting through it.

I have very much enjoyed my time at RumberKirk this summer. Getting to know and learn from the partners, associates, and summer associates here in the Orlando office has been a blessing. I also want to give a special shout out to my mentor, associate Mike Tessitore. He has been an amazing mentor, teacher, and most importantly, an amazing friend. I couldn't have asked for a better individual to help me grow as a lawyer and a person.

I have learned a ton in these past few weeks, and I am extremely grateful I was able to participate in this experience. I have grown so much as both a lawyer and an individual. This program has made me feel prepared for whatever else my law career will throw at me. Thank you to everyone for making this summer so special and allowing me to learn from some of the best attorneys in Orlando.