

## ***Week Ten - Participating in Mock Trial Gave Me Both Experience and Perspective***

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The week everyone has been waiting for has come: Mock Trial! Nerves were at an all-time high to say the least. Two weeks of putting in hours and hours of preparation for this one moment. Overall, I think it went really well. My teammate, Madison Buckley, and I represented the Plaintiff, Kay Denning. Our case was up first and because I had the opening statement, I was the first person of the day to speak! That was extra stressful, but I did it.

After all was said and done, I can say Mock Trial was an amazing learning experience. First, over the summer, I have watched depositions, propounded discovery, responded to discovery, and answered complaints. Doing these tasks was great, but Mock Trial gave an important perspective: it revealed the end to the means. In Mock Trial, I saw first-hand just how depositions, discovery, etc. are used in the actual trial. Now, when doing pretrial work, I will have a better understanding of the "why."

Second, public speaking is something that has always been difficult for me. Putting myself out there in Mock Trial and speaking in front of plenty of real attorneys was nerve-racking. However, I did it, and now anything else will feel like a piece of cake.

Lastly, coordinating with my teammate and figuring out a strategy that worked for our individual witnesses, our opening and closing, while being in line with our theme was tough. It required Madison and I to be on the same page, across the board. This was another layer that also taught me a lot.

All in all, Mock trial was hard but I am very glad I did it. I will come out of this summer with a ton of experience and a new perspective.