

## ***Week Ten – Mock Trial Teaches Skills, but also Professionalism***

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Mock trial: DONE! The summer associate program culminated with the Mock Trial this week. It was a blast to be with all of the other summer associates in Orlando as we worked to prepare our cases. It felt great to get my feet wet with raising and responding to objections. My trial partner, Hannah Klonowski, and I divided responsibility with the opening and closing statements and witness examination. Hannah was a great partner and absolutely killed it. Maybe one day we will have the opportunity to be co-counsel again!

Our opposing counsel was Mary Hudson and Evan Thomas. Although we were adversaries, I enjoyed working with them because they raised their arguments with collegiality. It is also nice to be on the opposing side of advocates who are knowledgeable and hard working—it pushes me to be my best. After the trial, we switched back to ‘friend mode’ which helped me see how attorneys can maintain good relationships with opposing counsel, and still pursue zealous advocacy on behalf of their client.

Now, we are back at our home offices. Over the next few days, I am busy wrapping up all my projects and saying goodbye to my Tampa colleagues. Then, I will head back to Tallahassee for my last year of law school. This summer really flew by, but I learned so much along the way. Thank you to RumbergerKirk for providing such a great summer associate experience.