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Dean Logan's Blog

Summer Judicial Internship with Judge Dennis Curran

Posted by David Logan on 09/07/2010 at 10:31 AM



The summer proved to be a learning experience for three RWU Law students, Stephen Deering '11, Thomas Hajj '11, and Raquel Thomas '12, as they completed judicial internships with Judge Dennis Curran of the Massachusetts Superior Court. The students assisted the judge with the management of the civil trial session, helped draft judicial opinions, and worked on an article on court management. The students had the unique opportunity of having lunch every Friday with the judge, where they discussed a broad array of trial tactics including cross-examination, opening statement, and closing argument. To deepen his clerks' understanding of the topics, Judge Curran provided them with a packet of materials to read and master at the beginning of the week, which served as the basis for the lunch discussions. In addition, Judge Curran arranged for the students to meet other Massachusetts judges, including Superior Court Judges and Regional Administrative Judges, had them observe a mediation session conducted by a seasoned mediator, and arranged for a personal tour of the state prison (MCI-Cedar Junction) conducted by Superintendent Peter A. Pepe Jr.

Stephen Deering '11 comments, "working for Judge Curran was an excellent experience. I was taught the essential things attorneys must do in and out of the court room, but more importantly what they should not do. During our Friday lunches, we would discuss a range of legal topics, including opening and closing arguments, examining an expert witness, and even what one's body and hands should be doing while making a statement in court. Judge Curran pointed out when younger (and sometimes older) attorneys would falter, and how this impacted the judge and jury. Being able to spend a summer working for Judge

Curran was a chance to hear the behind the scenes perspective and thoughts of a judge, an opportunity many attorneys do not get."

Judge Curran notes that "they worked hard, wrote well, and did everything I asked. The Clerk's Office and other support personnel were very impressed with all of them. You should be proud; they represented Roger Williams well."

Great job, Stephen, Thomas and Raquel, and, of course, Judge Curran!