

## Final Product Mixed with Mental Health

### Weekly Report 19 - 01/28/19 to 02/03/19

This past week was spectacular. So much new information was learned through the observation of Ms. Petty in court that could not have been done through research. Observing the hearing helped further explain court procedure outside of trials, pleas, and sentencing. There are so many more pretrial motions and hearings that were unknown before this experience.

Additionally, as the judge pushed the hearing to the end of the list for the morning, so I also had the opportunity to observe additional motions and hearings from other cases. These included a possible week of jail time due to the defendant refusing to take his court mandated medication for mental health issues, a man proposing to defend himself in a felony case, and a defendant refusing to pay his attorney. These were all interesting to observe, particularly how the judge listened and asked questions to both the defendants and the attorneys present.

While there are no observations scheduled for this week, a mentor visit was scheduled for Monday, February 4th, to discuss the final product and brainstorm some ideas. Because Ms. Petty is on the mental health wheel in the courthouse and has lots of experience in the field, the plan is to center the final product around defending clients with common mental health issues, such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. From this, the goal is to create a case study with the aid of Ms. Petty which would outline start to finish how an attorney would defend a client with one of these illnesses. This week the goal is to finalize the final product ideas and create a timeline of how to achieve this goal. Additionally, I plan to begin researching the two most common mental health issues as listed above, particularly about how they affect a client and his or her actions.