

Working as a Woman in Law

Weekly Report 8 - 10/08/18 to 10/14/18

By conducting an interview this week with Mr. Shapiro, valuable skills in both communication and practicing the law were learned. While it was intimidating at first to discuss my understanding of the law with such a well-known attorney in Plano, the experience taught conversational rather than interview skills, making the process flow smoother and less awkward. Aside from these skills, complex aspects of the law were clarified. It was interesting to learn more about voir dire and the flexible schedule of a defense attorney. Because of Mr. Shapiro's success in the criminal field, along with his father's experience of fifty years in the same field, networking was very beneficial. I was given the contact information of Jason Bloom, a jury consultant who has worked with the firm multiple times, and Mr. Shapiro said the judges in the area would be happy to participate in an interview. Additionally, Mr. Shapiro mentioned his willingness to participate in additional interviews and provide more contact information if needed.

For this week, an interview has been scheduled at the Barbieri Law Firm in Plano with Mrs. Heather Barbieri and an additional attorney at the firm. Since only about 35% of attorneys are female, I hope to learn more about what it's like to work as a woman in such a male-dominated field. From their personal experiences, it would be helpful to understand the hardships they faced as women, and how they overcame those challenges since I may face similar situations in the future. Additionally, the goal is to discuss the emotional toll particular cases may have, such as sexual assault crimes or crimes against women. While this topic had been previously addressed in research and the interview with Mr. Shapiro, discussing the issue with female attorneys may provide a different result worth understanding. The plan for this week is to clarify additional questions from research, network more sufficiently during the interview, and update the website with more current assignments.