

Professional Development

Associate Voices

Leah Vickers on my first case after clerking

I clerked for a year before I came to Patterson, and upon arriving here I was immediately thrown into a really exciting and a really fast paced trademark case, and within a day, honestly, of arriving here I was part of the team, was sitting in a meeting strategizing about where we were going to put emphasis, how we were going to handle discovery. We have a very, very short period of time in which to complete really complex discovery. I was thrown into that, not just as a listener but as a participant from day one.

From what I've seen, the partners here are very available. There is very much an open door policy. I was constantly -- especially when I first arrived -- it wasn't just a question of getting up to speed on the cases that I was working on, but just getting up to speed on how you do things logistically around the office. Every firm is different and the partners have been incredibly available to me and responsive to phone calls, to emails, to popping into their office with any kind of advice I needed, be it case related, firm related or life related.

To the extent that we're dealing with adversaries, our opposing counsel, they may have three or four people on the case. I may be on the phone. I often find myself on the phone talking to someone who is a senior associate or junior partner and I'm doing the same thing here that he or she is doing at their firm.

