

Professional Development

Associate Voices

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Partners and senior associates trust junior lawyers to get the job done

When I started at Patterson, I was amazed at the level of responsibility I was given, even as a first year associate. For example, I had barely been sworn to the Bar, but there I was on phone calls with partners and senior attorneys at other firms negotiating the scope of non-party discovery. Often that turned out to be quite adversarial, which was intimidating at first. But with the advice of more experienced attorneys, I made it through and I learned a lot in the process. What I continue to see is that the partners and senior attorneys here place a certain trust in associates to get the job done. But at the same time, they are also there to provide advice and support if you need it. Having that trust and those experiences has helped me to build confidence in my skills as an attorney. I'll give you another example. Recently I took my first deposition on one of several big cases that I work on. Having second-seated and prepared for other depositions in the past, I was sent to take my first party deposition, on my own, without any back-up, and it was a huge, positive learning experience for me.

