

## **What Does Patterson Offer?**

Christopher Wilds

Associates at Patterson are expected to contribute meaningfully to cases that they are staffed on.

It's not uncommon for junior associates to take on tasks that would normally be handled by more senior associates at another firm.

For example, communicating directly with clients, taking and defending depositions, and helping to develop case strategy.

What impresses me is Patterson's commitment to associates' professional development, ensuring that associates develop the skills needed to be successful as they take on additional responsibilities.

One example is the deposition training program conducted in partnership with the New York City Law Department.

There associates spend two weeks taking and defending depositions on behalf of the City in trip-and-fall cases.

The program is a great opportunity to gain deposition experience and also to learn more about a new area of law.

My experience in the deposition training program helped to prepare me for depositions in a pro bono case where I was responsible for taking and defending depositions, as well as in investigations, where I'm tasked with conducting interviews of fact witnesses.

The firm also takes seriously its goal of providing review and feedback to associates about the work that they're doing at the firm.

At Patterson, associates coming from a clerkship are reviewed annually, with reviews consisting of written comments collected from partners and senior associates and culminating in a meeting with the associate and two partners to discuss the associate's work in detail.

These formal reviews, as well as informal feedback received from senior attorneys and partners, provide valuable information that associates can use to develop the skills necessary to become good lawyers.

It's great to work at a firm that truly invests in associates and provides opportunities for them to grow by taking on more responsibility while having access to formal and informal professional development tools.