

What Does Patterson Offer?

Danielle C. Quinn (Class of 2015)

I joined Patterson Belknap after clerking for a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

One of my favorite parts of clerking was writing.

I was concerned that when I started at a law firm, that I would not get substantive writing opportunities or that I wouldn't get the same quality of substantive work.

This is not the case at Patterson Belknap.

During my first year at Patterson Belknap, I received several substantive writing assignments.

I have drafted several pre-trial motions, motions *in limine*, motions for summary judgment, a draft memo of law for a New York State special proceeding, and I've even had the opportunity to draft a portion of an amicus brief for the Ninth Circuit.

In addition to having these writing opportunities, Patterson offers a writing coach, Dianne Rosky, who reviews your drafts and provides stylistic and organizational feedback.

I found the writing coach not only extremely accessible, especially if working under a deadline, but extremely helpful in my transition from writing as a judicial law clerk to writing as an advocate.

In addition to the writing coach, I received real-time feedback from associates and partners.

I found this extremely helpful for my development as a legal writer and to contribute to my teams better.

Relatedly, I think another important feature of Patterson Belknap is that the partners and senior associates here give you autonomy early.

For many of the mentioned assignments, I was responsible for these motions start to finish.

This includes researching challenging legal questions, raising potential issues to senior associates and partners, drafting affidavits, discerning court rules and chambers requirements, and then overseeing the filing process.

Patterson gives you the opportunity to develop real legal skills.

My concerns are at rest.

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