

## Weekly Report 19

1/28 - 2/3

### Watching Open Plea

This week provided the opportunity to watch my mentor argue a case in front of a judge. It was my first experience with an open plea deal and provided a lot of new knowledge about criminal law. Additionally, it was exciting to watch a trial since it is one of my favorite parts about law. However, it was clear to see that with an open plea deal, the point of the trial was to paint a story for the judge rather than the typical argument associated with a trial. The emphasis was distinctly placed on direct examination rather than cross examination, but that may have been a function of the types of witnesses that the prosecution was calling to the stand. Nonetheless, it was enjoyable to see my mentor arguing a case that had a favorable outcome.

My work ethic this week was pretty good as there was time to accomplish most of my goals. This week was mainly spent doing more research on the Crimes Against Children department and preparing for the Original Work presentation. On top of that, I also briefly researched potential law related summer programs. My mentor mentioned that the District Attorney's office has law students, college students, and high school students that intern over the summer which would be a great opportunity to extend my legal knowledge. Unfortunately, since my mentor was working during the mentor visit, there was not time to ask her about the Advocacy program or CASA program to see if she had time to reach out to her contacts.

The main goal for this upcoming week is to prepare for the Original Work/Semester Presentation. This presentation will be good practice for the Final Presentation at the end of the year and will allow me to present all of the work that has been completed this semester. Furthermore, identifying the best idea for Final Presentation will be an additional goal for this week. This will require talking with my mentor to hear if her contacts have volunteer opportunities as well as asking her opinion about which idea would best benefit the community.