

Mentor Visit Assessment #1

Mentor: Anna Rupani

Profession: Staff Attorney and Pro-Bono Coordinator

Location: Mosaic Family Services, Inc.

Date: Tuesday, January 30th

Time: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Assessment:

This was my second mentor visit where I really got a chance to sit down and speak with Anna. Other visits I've been on have been primarily observational, which although I think really help me get a sense of how the nonprofit interacts, don't provide me as much time to talk to Anna. Going into the mentor visit itself, I really wanted to get some advice on my Final Product ideas. The visit was Tuesday and the day before I had turned in my Final Product Proposal, so I particularly wanted the time with her to help me flesh out my ideas and hear what she had to say about my plan.

At her office, we talked a lot about the different ideas I had sent her. We discussed how trying to create a comprehensive referral book of lawyers and firms in the DFW area willing to do nonprofit or pro-bono work might be too ambitious for the remaining months I have in the program. Although I was excited at the potential of getting to put that book together, I understand that I probably wouldn't have all the time needed to make it the best it could possibly be, and I would rather not do it at all than do it badly. From there we moved on to the two other ideas I had emailed her about last week. One was to create a mock trial and one was to create a pamphlet for clients at Mosaic. Anna thought that the two could be merged together well, although I'm a little more confused about the mock trial aspect, as I've never conducted something like that, and I'm not fully sure what steps I would take to complete it. We also discussed the pamphlet, and I think that I will definitely find a way to implement that into my Final Product. I like that it will be a physical thing that by May I will have put together and can hold in my hand.

After that, the biggest highlight of the meeting was probably getting to learn more about human rights law itself. Anna thought it would be incredibly valuable if I learned more about the law she does herself and I completely agreed. I appreciate that she is the kind of mentor that could see the importance in building my knowledge from the ground up and allowed me access to learn more about the subjects she works in. She gave me a folder of packets to read over and research and from there I went into an adjacent office to learn more about domestic violence cases as a whole. She even let me borrow the packets to take home to read. I think that it's so important in my work from here that I keep learning more about the cultural aspects of human rights law, because understanding where clients are coming from will help me understand what questions and concerns they would most likely have.

Overall, I took a lot away from the visit, not only about how I should proceed with my Final Product, but also how I should focus my research on the cultural aspects of human rights law, too, because I learned how important it will be from here on out. I really enjoyed the visit and it was very eye-opening; I can't wait to keep going on them, now that I have a direct goals to work towards with my Final Product.