

Observation Assessment #2

Type of Observation: Client Intake Meeting

Mentor: Anna Rupani

Location: Mosaic Family Services, Inc.

Date: Thursday, March 1st

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Assessment:

This week I sat in on a meeting with the attorneys at Mosaic. This is the second time I've gotten to sit in on one of their client intake meetings and I really enjoy witnessing the dynamic between all of the lawyers. It's a little more exciting sitting in on the client meetings, because it feels like the actual law is happening, but with ISM, the beauty of it is that I get to view so many different aspects of the profession, and that's true of the client intake meetings too.

The head lawyer at Mosaic is actually moving positions, so that was a big factor in the meeting discussion. I remember when I was interviewing different lawyers, and both nonprofit lawyers that I spoke with, including Anna, cited how much staff turnaround there is in nonprofit law. Even though I took in the knowledge of there being a lot of staff changes, I didn't think I would actually see it happening in the six months of my mentorship with Anna. I'm not sure of the specifics, of the move, but even when I interviewed with Anna, I recall her talking about how she liked her position in part because everyone on the lawyer team had been there for a few years and they worked really well together. From here, I wonder how the dynamic of the staff team will change because they're already so busy with cases, that I assume for a while they'll have to take on less in order to adjust to the head lawyer deficit.

Another thing that came up during the meeting was space. With the head lawyer leaving and so many summer interns lined up for the coming months, a big problem for the lawyers at Mosaic is having enough room for everyone. They considered moving to a different floor with more room for everyone and think that if it becomes a possibility, it

could be really helpful for them. I wonder about things like this, because I think it's one of the reasons they feel a little disgruntled working at Mosaic. I have heard quite a few times that it's difficult to work there because the departments don't do a great job of acknowledging each other, and I feel like with this that's pretty evident, because space seems like a pretty significant issue.

They also discussed grants in the meeting and talked about the money they would have to receive in order to take on more lawyers and interns. I have really come to realize over the past few months visiting Anna that money is quite an issue for the nonprofit, not that they necessarily don't have enough, but more than it's a constant consideration in the back of their minds at all times.

Overall, I don't know if meetings like this will particularly help me in my Final Product, but they are so interesting to sit in on with the possibility of going into law in the future. Whereas often I'm learning more about the clients, observing things like this show me the inner workings in a law firm, especially in the nonprofit sector, and it gives me such valuable insights to the industry as a whole.