



Summer Clerk Testimonials

by Wesley Rogers

If there is a single word to describe my experience as a summer clerk at Harmers it would be 'teamwork'. Many workplaces, including law firms, market themselves on the idea of teamwork without giving much concern to its significance. As a summer clerk, I quickly learned that there is nothing frivolous in Harmers' devotion to the concept.

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From the moment the clerkship began, I was a welcomed member of Harmers. Immediately I was incorporated into legal work and it did not take long to feel like an integral part of the team. I was given genuine responsibilities through a range of important tasks. My duties included legal research, drafting documents and assisting with client advice. The summer clerks were also given the opportunity to attend court proceedings and client presentations. As a result, I was consistently making significant contributions and I never felt like a bystander. Furthermore, I was surprised by the variety of legal fields I worked in. While all the matters concerned employment issues, the work comprised of torts, constitutional law, corporate law and many other legal areas. I enjoyed the diversity of the work as everyday was a new experience.

Harmers has a strong understanding of the importance of a cohesive firm and the idea of teamwork is not limited to the legal work. It is a concept that is built into the foundation of the firm and is seen throughout all aspects of its operation. All employees, at every level of seniority, are directly involved in running the firm. This "Full Firm" decision making model is a concept that is not taken lightly and as a summer clerk, I felt like an important part of the process. Along with other staff members, I participated in numerous meetings, committees and ongoing projects that encouraged my input on firm management and development. It is through these forums that Harmers displays true sincerity by genuinely considering all points of view, no matter who may hold them. This rare quality is one of many surprising features that sets Harmers apart from other firms.

The decision making forums had additional benefits as they also promoted constant interaction with other employees. This created a very friendly atmosphere throughout the firm. By the end of the first week, I was on a first name basis with all my co-workers, getting to know them on both a professional and social level. Lunches, after work drinks and other social events were not in short supply. Not only did Harmers provide me with valuable work and learning experiences, it led to the development of great friendships.

Harmers has developed a unique work culture that strives on openness, collaboration and support. These values are so prevalent throughout the office that they have become synonymous with firm name and are simply referred as being "Harmers like". At the beginning of my career, it is encouraging to know that a firm like Harmers exists that is built on such sensible principles. To witness the integration of these values into a legal environment was a highly rewarding experience. I cannot think of a more positive setting for a summer clerk to develop. Harmers is the ideal firm for anyone who shares the "Harmers like" qualities and wants to engage the law through a unique insight on the profession.

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