

## My Summer Associate Experience: Andrea V. Hernandez

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Our 2024 Summer Associate Program brought 13 law students from five law schools to the firm for an intellectually challenging and professionally gratifying experience. The students took part in firm-sponsored social events and community service projects throughout the summer in addition to attending client meetings, depositions, court hearings and other proceedings. Nearing the end of the program, the students agreed to share a few highlights from their summer at Shutts.

Andrea V. Hernandez joined Shutts' Orlando office for the summer from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Andrea is a member of the Latino Law Student Association and Real Estate Law Association. She has interned for the Honorable Carlos Mendoza for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Andrea shares her thoughts on her summer experience at Shutts.

### **What were the three most memorable experiences throughout your time here?**

There was something new to do and learn each day as a Summer Associate at Shutts. During my summer, I was able to observe the mediation of a federal litigation case. Observing the mediation was particularly fascinating because I got to truly see the value of active listening and open communication when a disagreement arises in any situation. Another of my most memorable experiences this summer was spending time with my mentor, Adriana. Adriana and I went out often to have lunch, and we even attended a cycling class together. I really appreciated that I could go to her with questions, and she always provided sound advice when needed. Attending the Edible Education Experience was a truly fun and memorable event. The Edible Education Experience event was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about other lawyers at the firm through cooking and enjoying a meal together.

### **What is something new that you learned during the summer program?**

I learned a lot about the importance of being willing to try something new. I generally preferred litigation work, but I was intentional about seeking assignments from partners in transactional practice groups as well because I really had not been exposed to those practice areas before. Some of the transactional real estate assignments ended up being my favorite tasks to complete. Had I not sought out assignments beyond what was familiar to me, I would not have learned as much, nor would I have had as much fun in the process.

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**If you could go back to the first day of the summer program and give yourself a piece of advice, what would it be?**

Be open to everything and seek out assignments that will take you beyond your current universe of knowledge.

### Offices

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