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“Resident At Law” Program

Trusts and Estates Law

In October 2011, Laird A. Lile, P.A., launched its inaugural “Resident at Law” program. Following an intensive application and interview process, the firm hired Patrick F. Mize, Esq., as its first “Resident at Law.” Mr. Mize graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in May 2011 with a dedicated interest in the area of trusts and estates law, and passed the July 2011 bar examination. His term as the “Resident at Law” ends in April 2013, following 18 months in the position.

The program is designed to provide a transition from law school into practice, similar to a medical residency program. The “Resident at Law” Program will provide in-depth training in a trusts and estates law practice environment to prepare the attorney for the traditional practice of law.

Mr. Mize’s responsibilities include:

- participating in substantive aspects of the practice of law at the firm
- learning the practical aspects of the business of a law firm
- joining, and being active in, local and state bar organizations
- preparing continuing legal education programs

The traditional “billable hour” requirement of a first-year associate has been eliminated in order to allow the Resident to be fully engaged in professional activities, including client projects and bar activities; however, as the Resident, Mr. Mize is expected to dedicate the same working hours as a traditional first-year associate. Ultimately, the goal is to instruct and expose the Resident to areas of practice that a typical associate would not encounter until the third or fourth year of legal practice.