

Whitehaven Youth Development

Students Explore the Federal Justice System

Approximately 20 students from Whitehaven Youth Development visited the Odell Horton Federal Building for an educational experience introducing them to the federal justice system.



Lunch provided students with the unique opportunity to engage in a group discussion with Chief Judge Lipman, Judge Andre Mathis, Judge John Fowlkes, U.S. Attorney Michael Dunavant, Assistant Federal Public Defender Presita West, and U.S. Probation Officer Tanner Thompson. The conversation gave students an inside look at careers in public service and the work of each agency.

The visit provided students with a firsthand look at the collaboration among the federal judiciary, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense counsel, and probation officers, reinforcing how each plays a vital role in the justice system.

The visit began with students observing a sentencing hearing before Chief Judge Sheryl H. Lipman, followed by a courthouse tour and presentation with U.S. Marshals Jessica Ivie and Joseph Beidl. Students especially enjoyed the hands-on demonstration of the Marshals' protective gear and equipment, including ballistic vests, a breaching ram, and a riot shield, and asked numerous questions about careers in federal law enforcement.



The visit concluded with a group photograph, marking a memorable day of learning, engagement, and career exploration.

