

# St. Mary's Episcopal School

## 3-Branches of Government Field Trip

On May 10, 2024, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class from St. Mary's Episcopal School visited the District Court as part of a 3-Branches of Government Field Trip. The class observed a sentencing hearing before District Judge Thomas L. Parker and held a mock trial using facts from the landmark First Amendment Rights case *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District*. The group met with representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Defender's Office, and U.S. Probation Office prior to the sentencing for pre-hearing discussions. They toured the U.S. Marshals Service Office and then had lunch with the judges and posed for a group photo before heading off to visit the branches of the county and city governments.



# Welcome & Pre-Hearing Discussion

Chief Magistrate Judge Tu M. Pham welcomed the class to the district court and shared some updated facts about parties in the *Tinker* case and some links the case had to Memphis. He also answered some questions the students had for the judges.



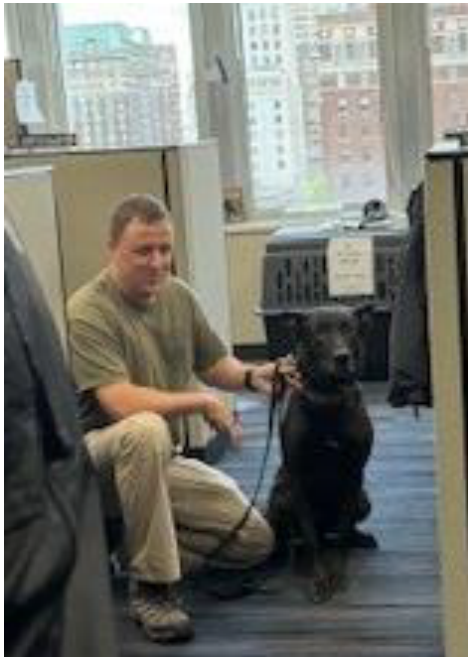
Assistant U.S. Attorney Lauren Delery, U.S. Probation Officer Dawn Gardner, and Assistant Federal Defender Everette Hoagland discussed facts about the sentencing the students would observe and the factors a judge considers when determining a sentence. The students had insightful questions about the sentencing process, current events, and the role of each agency.

# The Mock Trial



# U.S. Marshals Service

Supervising Deputy U.S. Marshal Jess Ivie and Judicial Security Inspector Joe Beidl spoke to the students about the role of the Marshals Service and then took them on a tour of the U.S. Marshals control room. While touring the control room, Deputy U.S. Marshal Seth Bruce brought out some of the protective gear used in the field.



Shelby County K-9 Officer Marko was on site during the tour and his handler brought him out for the students. K-9 Officer Marko is always on duty and students were instructed not to approach or try to pet him.





The students had lunch with some of the judges and Criminal Defense Attorney Taurus Bailey. As you can see from the raised hands in the photos below, they had plenty of questions.



## Lunch & Questions for the Judges

