

White Station Students Gain Firsthand Look at the Federal Justice System

On October 9, 2025, students from White Station High School's We the People honors class had a front-row seat to justice in action. A visit to the U.S. District Court provided an opportunity to witness justice in action. The morning was filled with exciting experiences: observing court proceedings, meeting judges and legal professionals, and participating in a lunchtime Q&A session with judges and guest speakers.



Conversations with Legal Professionals



Above: The visit began with an introduction by Probation Officer Dawn Gardner and Assistant Federal Defender Presita West, who provided context on the supervised release process and set the stage for observation of the court proceeding.

Right: Judge John T. Fowlkes addressed the students from the bench after the hearing. During the hearing, the students listened attentively. They gained insight into the charges and the defendant's rights, experiencing firsthand the professionalism, empathy, and cooperation that define the federal courtroom.



Above: Attorney Justin Bailey and Assistant Federal Defender Mary C. Jermann-Robinson, discussed the roles of prosecutors and defense counsel. Mr. Bailey also touched on his role as general counsel for the Memphis-Shelby County Schools.



