

INSIGHT NEWS

Holding court at Roosevelt High School

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Judge Toddrick Barnette

The Fourth Judicial district hosted a simulated court hearing at Roosevelt High School as part of an effort to reach out to the community and the large immigrant population of students at the school.

The Hennepin County District Court is trying to educate various communities across the city of Minneapolis and increase awareness of how the justice system operates. Judge Toddrick Barnette, the presiding judge, said he is certain that "holding courts in the community is one way to educate the public about what we do." He said that having these types of hearings about real cases gives students insight to the reality of law and how our justice system is supposed to work.

This was the first visit by the Hennepin County Court to Roosevelt High School. Previously they held a similar hearing at Wayzata High School. The reaction from students was positive and engaging, and they showed enthusiasm regarding the presentation. At the conclusion of the case (the State vs. Terry Calvin Davis), students were granted the forum to participate and ask questions involving this criminal case.

Many students who attended the hearing found the case to be interesting and very real. Sean, a twelfth grader, said that "It seems to me very realistic and informative for the school. We should have more cases presented in our school and around the rest of the community."

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