

# A glance into the future.....



"I think I want to become a lawyer. Lawyers are good liars, and I'd like to learn how to lie really well."

—Farhan Ali, 10



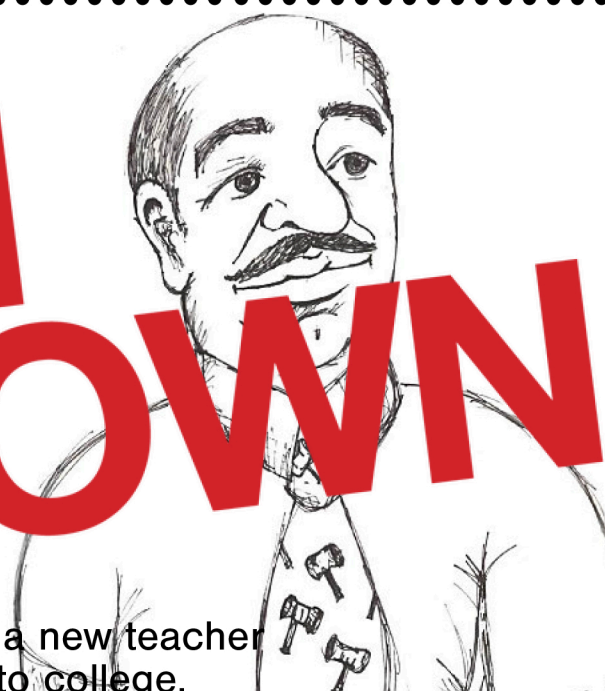
"I want to be a judge because that's where the true change comes from. You can change things as a lawyer, but you can't make as big of a difference as a judge."

—Ben Crawford, 10



"I want to be an attorney because they get paid well, and I want to make a lot of money. —Alex Mejia, 10

# THERE'S A NEW LAWYER IN TOWN



Law Magnet students get a chance to experience a new teacher after former director Alexis Stern leaves to return to college.

It was 1989. Ben Fiedler was 32 years old and fresh out of The South Texas College of Law and ready to dive into the work force with a law degree in hand. Little did Fiedler know that after practicing law for approximately 13 years in Civil Litigation and teaching in Alvin ISD for another 13, he would be sitting at his desk at Richardson High School's Law Magnet, guiding aspiring law students.

Senior Ian Miller, a law magnet student and captain of the mock trial team, said that the students are extremely happy with their new teacher.

"He's over-qualified for his job as far as I can tell," Miller said. "Out of high school, he was an army ranger, jumping out of airplanes in West Germany. Then he went to college and eventually got his law degree, after which, he practiced law for I think 13 years, and then became a teacher in Alvin ISD, taught there, and now he's in Richardson."

Fiedler explained that he encourages all students who have expressed an interest in government to think about taking up a career in law.

"It's very rewarding personally, and it's a good way to be of service to other people," Fiedler said.

Fiedler's journey to becoming a lawyer began shortly after receiving his undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

"I always had the idea that I would like to [become a lawyer]," Fiedler said. "My limitation was financial. Although I always had an interest in [law], I was out of college for a few years working before I realized that I would actually be able to carry through and go to law school."

Fiedler explained that anyone who wants to be a lawyer should understand it is important to study hard, be persistent, and

stay dedicated because Fiedler believes being a lawyer is a privilege.

"What I would relate to anyone considering going into law is that it really is a great chance to serve the community, and there's so many ways for a person to work in the legal field," Fiedler said. "I think one of the things it does that is most important is that it helps connect people with things that are important to them."

After retiring from law, Fiedler began volunteer work and became more involved in teaching.

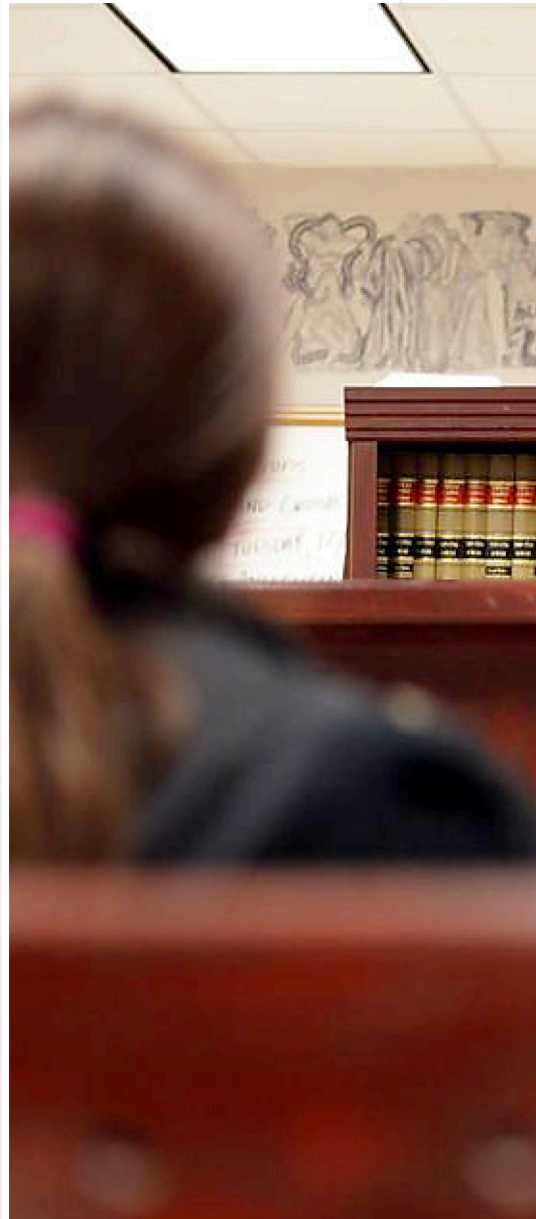
"[Both careers] are to fill a capacity or an opportunity for service, and I think that is what's important – to know that one is making a contribution in a positive way to the community through providing a service, or in teaching, to have an opportunity to work with young people," Fiedler said.

Last year's magnet director Alexis Stern left Richardson to obtain a masters in education from Harvard. Principal Charles Bruner said the school interviewed about twenty people before deciding on Fiedler.

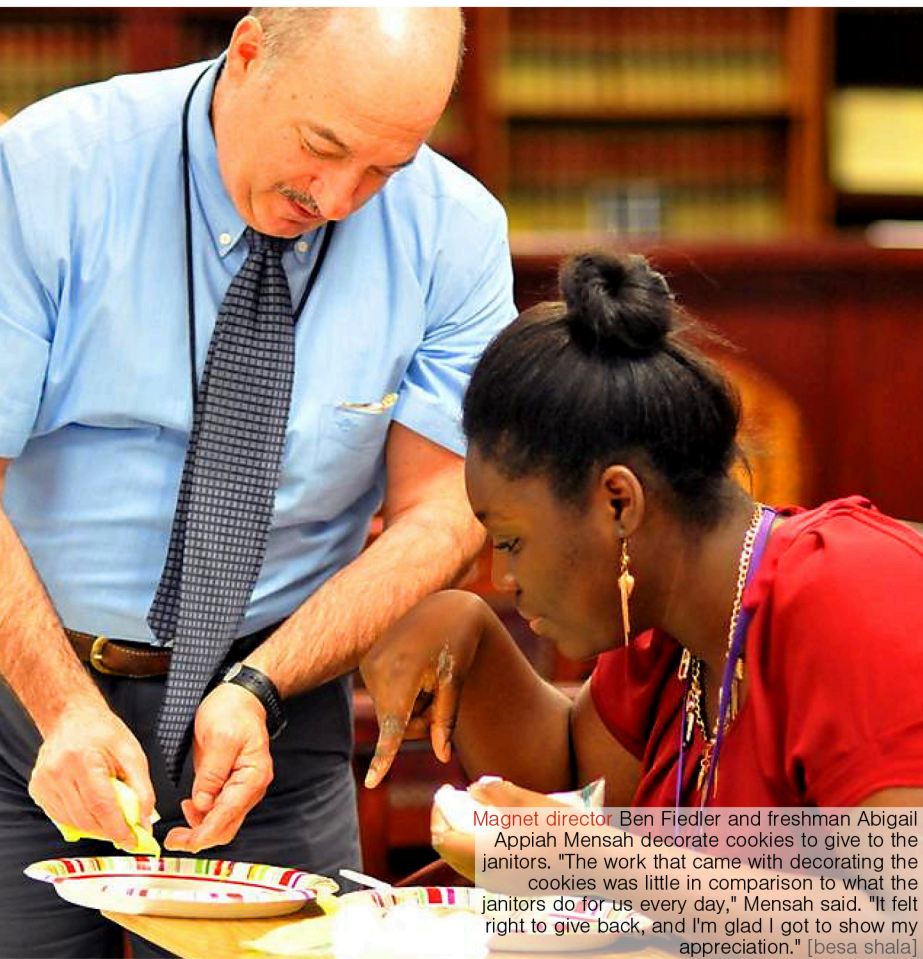
"We had an outstanding law teacher and big shoes to fill," Bruner said. "We were looking for a great government teacher, but we added experience in law as a possible criterion in hopes to continue to raise the bar at RHS. When we found both in a quality candidate that could also add a military perspective and had received "most influential teacher" on his previous campus four years running, we knew he was the guy. We are so lucky that relocation brought him to the Dallas area."

Fiedler said he is very happy to be a part of Richardson's law program.

"It's nice to work in a place where there's tremendous support from the principals, the administration, the school district and everyone else on campus," Fiedler said. "It is just a great place to work."







Magnet director Ben Fiedler and freshman Abigail Appiah Mensah decorate cookies to give to the janitors. "The work that came with decorating the cookies was little in comparison to what the janitors do for us every day," Mensah said. "It felt right to give back, and I'm glad I got to show my appreciation." [besa shala]

## Mock Trial

# NEWS BIES

How are they doing?



"Mock Trial is going pretty well this year. It's a lot of work, but it's all worth it. And being a witness is really fun."

**-Isra Hamid Ali, 9**



"Mock Trial is really fun, and it's a great way to find somewhere where you fit in. We're like a family. It's really challenging at times, but we're all there for each other. And we make good food."

**-Addy Bender, 9**



"Mock trial has been an eye-opening experience that has allowed me to form close bonds with my team members and build an identity that has allowed me to grow."

**-Mark Witte, 10**

**WHILE PORTRAYING** an attorney during a mock trial case, sophomore Prosper Osuchukwu receives a testimony. "It's always fun to 'drain the well' as we call it. [besa shala]"



**DURING MOCK** Trial practice, senior Jackie Brewer portrays a judge. "I enjoy being a judge," Brewer said. "I get to answer people's objections and tell people to shut up. The gavel is also pretty fun to use." [besa shala]



**FRESHMAN JENNIFER** Johnson works on the frame for the law float to enter into the Homecoming Parade. "It was really fun," Johnson said. "I was pretty much the only girl who knew how to do the drilling. I'm definitely going to help on the law float next year." [jade liu]



**SOPHOMORE MADISON** Martinez helps decorate cookies to give to the janitors as a 'thank you' for their services. "Decorating cookies was really fun," Martinez said. "I enjoyed decorating them and making them all festive. They may not look pretty, but we try our hardest." [besa shala]