

Back and Better than Ever! The Law Magnet Grows

Law Magnet Faculty

Charles Pickitt,
RHS Principal

Steve Whiffen,
Magnet Principal

Bill Witten,
Magnet Counselor

Sara Hofeditz,
Law I: Econ & AP Gov't,
Law II: Civil & Criminal Law,
Senior Internships,
Mock Trial & Law Review

Monica Simonds,
Pre-Law: Media Literacy

Kristin Siegrist,
Law III: Forensics

Be sure to visit at registration to get RHS Law decals, join Law Review & more!

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As we welcome our largest class of Freshmen yet, the Law Magnet is changing to accommodate the size, interests and needs of its students.

As many of you are well aware, beginning with the class of 2011, students will need four years of all four core subjects to graduate. The current set up of the Law Magnet course work was not doing all it could for its students. Therefore, we made changes!

Beginning this school year, the Law Magnet is reducing the number of "elective" credits its courses give students and have added one of the most crucial credits for this new requirement: Senior Science.

Joining the Law Magnet team is Kristin Siegrist, a current RHS

Science teacher who will be teaching the senior level Law Magnet course, exclusive to RHS: Forensics.

Developing a new curriculum and gaining all new and advanced equipment will give Law Magnet students the opportunity to get their science credit their senior year but, hopefully, in a topic more suited to their interests.

The coursework requires students to take all three previous years of Law as prerequisites to taking Forensics. However, this course not only allows students more opportunities to meet the credits they need, it also maintains the ability to complete the entire Law Magnet coursework, including the Senior Internship.

Here's to a great 2008-2009!

Senior Internship Program Grows 4-fold

The 2007-2008 school year saw two of the Law Magnet's brightest students in the Senior Internship program. Andrew Townsend interned at Congressman Pete Sessions's office and Elise Miller interned at the law office of Eberstien & Witherite.

Both students experienced access to parts of the government and legal system of which college and law school students would be fortunate to be a part.

The 2008-2009 school year is seeing an increase in participation in the internship program. Twenty-seven of the Law Magnet seniors will be completing 150 hours to receive a full year credit, either over one semester or the full year.

Students will go through a boot camp at the beginning of their internship semester including resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills and phone etiquette. These preparation

experiences will not only prepare them for their internships but will also put them ahead of the crowd when applying for college.

Some of our Seniors have gotten a jump start on their experience in the legal scene: Bora Laci and Fahmida Musharof are interning with Karen Washington at Thorpe, Hatcher & Washington LLP, Victoria Varner is interning at the Dallas DA Office, Organized Crime Department, and Jessa DeGroote is interning with RISD General Counsel Mia Martin.

Victoria Varner and Jessa DeGroote began their internships the summer after their sophomore year working at the Commonwealth Attorneys Office, Culpepper, Virginia, and Richardson Mayor's Office, respectively.

With all of these interested students, if you have or know of an internship opportunity, please contact Sara Hofeditz.

Richardson Law Summer Newsletter

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Welcome to the Richardson Law Magnet Class of 2012!

New Law Review Officer just for you!

Junior Thomas Chatto is Law Review's Freshmen Liaison. His job is to connect you freshmen to all things Law Magnet and RHS. He will come to your classes and make announcements but also will be available for your questions, too!

First I would like to say that Mrs. Simonds and I were delighted to meet and talk to you last spring and are so pleased that you are coming to the Richardson Law Magnet.

The Pre-Law course is a preparatory course for the Law Magnet – laying the foundation for the rest of your Law Magnet career. You will learn skills that will aid you in studying, thinking critically, and background information into law and government.

This is your only year in the Law Magnet in which you will not have summer reading, so soak up the rays (with SPF 30) while you can!

Your class will be in G Hall making it easily accessible to your other courses your Freshmen year. With that being said, please come by the Law Room B110 to say hi, hang out before and after school and get connected.

Be sure to sign up for Law Review at registration and get your Law Magnet window decal!

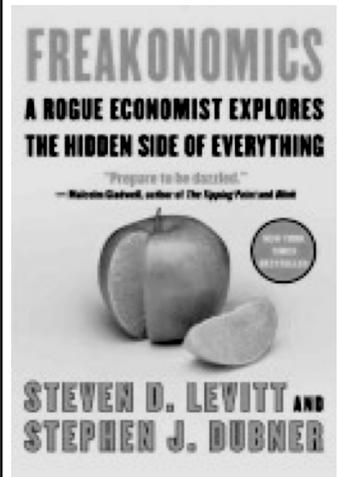
Law I 2008 – A Fantastic Year for Government!

Once every four years a group of students is so lucky to be studying government. You are a part of this lucky group of students. I will be rearranging the curriculum to line up with some life changing events – say, presidential elections!

You receive your senior level social studies credits through Law I – a semester credit of Economics and a semester credit of AP U.S. Government. While the credits are evenly divided between the semesters, we focus primarily on the Government aspect of law and how economics and fiscal policy affect our government.

The culmination of your education in Law I occurs on May 4 when you will take the AP U.S. Government test for college credit. We will take a lot of time to prepare for this test so you will go into it with as few surprises as possible to ease any worries.

The summer reading for Law I is *Freakonomics* by Levitt & Dubner. This book will provide a different way of problem solving and analytical thought. This will be our introduction into economics followed by a few comic books by the U.S. Federal Reserve.



Juniors leaping into Civil & Criminal Law

I am so excited to have you all in class again! And as many of you mentioned before we left for summer break, the two Law I classes are combining for Law II.

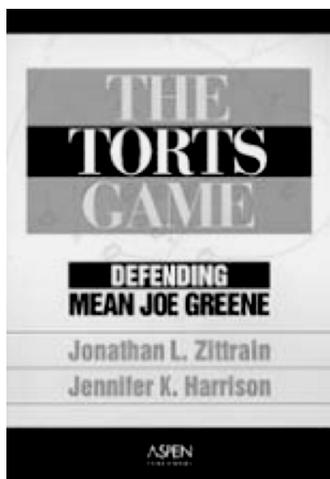
Due to the new course progression, you are the first junior class to be taking Civil & Criminal Law in preparation for Law III: Forensics.

We dedicate a semester to each area law and will be learning through text, vocabulary, and, most importantly, case law. We will also experience the reality of these areas of law by trips to the George Allen Civil Courthouse and

the Frank Crowley Criminal Courthouse, each to its respective semester of study.

The text is a college textbook that I used my junior year of college as well as law school supplements. The second semester text will be my own compilation of texts from many sources and will be available to be purchased which I strongly suggest.

The summer reading for Civil Law is *The Torts Game* by Zitrain and Harrison; the story of defending the real-life character of Mean Joe Greene through the process of litigation.



Purchase at amazon.com
ISBN #9780735545090

Law III: Fingerprints, DNA, Forensics, oh my!

The class of firsts: Our first Pre-Law class and now our first Law III: Forensics class. We do this to you because we know you are the best and the brightest and will set the bar high for all who follow.

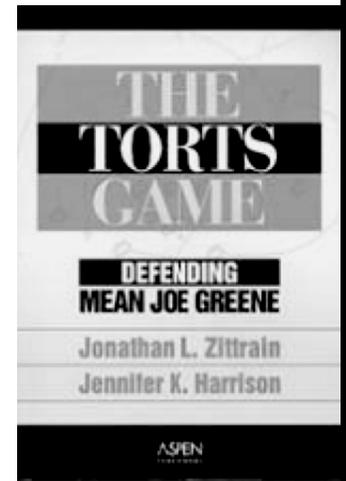
For this first year of Forensics, we are combining part of the Senior level Civil & Criminal Law with the new curriculum so you will not miss out on anything.

Being team taught by Miss Kristin Siegrist and myself, we will venture into what we see on TV in an episode of *CSI* and apply it to the case law we will be learning through Civil & Criminal

Law. There are new textbooks and new equipment to be used in the classroom and the lab.

As the first class to complete the four-year curriculum of the Law Magnet as well as my first group of sophomores, I am so excited that I get to take this journey with you.

As you will still be taking some Civil Law your fall semester, you will also be reading *The Torts Game* by Ziltrain and Harrison; the story of defending the real-life character of Mean Joe Greene through the process of litigation.



Purchase at amazon.com
ISBN #9780735545090

Law Review – Continuing to Serve and have Fun in 2008

Law Review Officers 2008-2009

President

Jr. Jason Wardy

Co-Vice President

Sr. Asja Begovic

Co-Vice President

Sr. Jessa DeGroot

Treasurer

Sr. Victoria Varner

Historian

So. Essencejoy
Evangelista

Secretary

So. Vi Tran

Special Events Coord.

Jr. Katharine Bain

Freshman Liaison

Jr. Thomas Chatto

Law Review is the social organization of the Law Magnet and with a new group of officers armed and ready to go, this year is bound to be the best yet!

Students will be able to pay their dues and join Law Review at registration and during the first weeks of school. Dues are \$20 and include the club t-shirt. Checks may be made out to Law Review.

Show your Law Magnet pride by supporting Law Review and purchasing Law Magnet window decals and mouse pads. These items will be on sale at registration and throughout the school year, \$5 and \$10 respectively.

We also have more Law Review Officers to elect – Class Representatives who serve as liaisons to their class and the Law Review board; keeping their classmates informed of Law Review events. Applications will be available at registration and through the first week of school. Applications are due the Tuesday after Labor Day and elections will be the next day, Wednesday, the 3rd.

Law Review will begin its year by holding its Annual Dover Elementary School Supply Drive – so while you are out getting your school supplies, pick up some extras to donate to one of Richardson's feeder schools in need. We will be collecting through the first two weeks of school and one of the first acts as new Class Reps will be taking the school supplies over to the students.

And while it seems far away, Homecoming on October 31 is quickly approaching and Law Review is in need of a trailer and truck with a hitch for our Homecoming float. We will also need all the help we can get during the "production" stages of the float so anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated!

Returning and NEW events for Law Review this year will include:

- Cottonwood Park Pet Picnics
- Dover Legal Clinic & Game Night
- Marines Toys for Tots Penny War
- Lawliday Gift Exchange Party
- Homecoming Alumni Reception
- Scales of Justice Gala

Legal Eagles Still to Complete Team in Fall

The Legal Eagle Mock Trial team is already working toward another State Championship, reclaiming their title from 2007. Tryouts in the Fall will complete the 2008-2009 team. The case packet and application will be available at registration and the first couple of weeks of school.

Tryouts will be Wednesday, September 10. The team will hold clinics during lunches before tryouts to aid prospective team members with their tryout preparation and materials.

This year there will be a new position on the team; a secondary non-

competing team: The Paralegals. This six member team will each receive a part as an attorney and a witness to prepare the competition case for the 2008 season.

In doing so, The Paralegals will not only be learning the skills they will need in future years on the team, but will also aid team members with their own original material and skills in argumentation.

Parts on the team and The Paralegals will be determined at parts tryout on Monday, October 27.

Legal Eagles 2008-2009

Sr. Asja Begovic
Sr. Jessa DeGroot
Sr. Ilva Fejzulla
Sr. Megan Gailey
Jr. Thomas Chatto
Jr. Jason Wardy
So. Essencejoy Evangelista
So. Emily Kruse
So. Ram Mannah
So. Grace Miller
So. Ibraheem Nasrallah
So. Vi Tran

Coach Sara Hofeditz
Attorney Advisor Jonathan Winocur

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Keep in Touch!

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The Law Magnet will begin its e-mail distribution list again this year; containing announcements and weekly assignments, this keeps both parents and students up to date on what is going on in the Law Magnet.

I have already sent out a message to the e-mails that I already have. If you did not receive one, we need to get you on that list. Go to the Richardson Law Magnet webpage and click on the link to fill out the information form.

Students: If you do not have an e-mail address, I encourage you to get one in order to keep in touch. We will be using many Google programs and tools, including calendars, collaboration documents and power points, in class as well as on the website, so I suggest a gmail account, which is free.

SARA HOFEDITZ
RICHARDSON LAW
1250 BELTLINE ROAD
RICHARDSON, TEXAS
75080

Registration Dates:

Seniors 8/6

Juniors 8/8

Sophomores 8/11

Freshmen 8/14

**Attention:
Summer Reading
enclosed!**