

**MUSCOGEE COUNTY STATE COURT**  
**JUDGE PRATHER**  
**Post Office Box 1340**  
**Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340**  
<http://www.columbusga.org/statecourt/>

Andy Prather, Judge  
Joyce Smallwood, Adm. Asst.

Telephone (706) 653-4318  
Fax: Available upon groveling request if you swear the document is 3 pages or less including cover sheet.  
No kidding, an Atlanta lawyer tried to fax us a fifty-four (54) page motion so now you have to call and get us to unblock the fax machine. Better still, send your communications via PDF format to our email address. If you have an assistant under age 29 he or she should be able to do that.

**DATE:** Dec. 31, 2014  
**TO:** All attorneys of record and pro-se litigants  
**FROM:** Andy Prather, Muscogee County State Court Judge  
**RE:** **Civil Trial Docket call for January Term, 2015**

This is the Muscogee County State Court Civil Trial Docket for the January Term of 2015, Division 2 (Prather)

Docket Call is at **8:15 A.M.** on Wednesday, Feb. 04, 2015. Trials start Mon., Feb. 16, 2015 at 8:30 AM. Pretrial conference date is to be announced. If you can agree with opposing counsel that you want your case set down just let us know in writing **before** Feb. 3, 2015 that your case is ready and whether or not you want a pretrial conference. If you do this, you need not attend docket call. If you cannot reach an agreement that the case is ready then whoever wants the case set down should attend docket call.

PLEASE DO NOT call, fax, cause to be delivered to us any communicative media, or otherwise attempt to communicate with us about this docket the day before docket call unless it is to tell us that the case has been settled, dismissed, or removed to federal court. This request includes, but is not limited to Atlanta Metro law Offices and Rick! Rick, please don't call at 7:58 AM the morning of docket call and ask if your case can be added to the docket!

Please don't communicate with us before docket call in the first person singular about your case e.g. "Plaintiff announces ready." "I want this case set down for the first week" or "I want this case passed." Before communicating with us, please consult with opposing counsel or party so that you can tell us what everybody involved wants; e.g. "**All parties** want this case set down for the first week." -or- "Plaintiff is ready to proceed but defense counsel wants to bill the insurance company for some more hours of redundant discovery." If you use the term "we", it is assumed that you mean you and the opposing counsel or party. If your use of the term "we" means you and your client, secretary or imaginary friend please spell that out for us.

SPECIAL SETTINGS

We have had a number of requests lately for a case to be put at the first of the docket. This amounts to a request for special setting. This office adheres as strictly as possible to Uniform State Court Rule 8.6.

CASE NUMBERS

When you do write, fax or call, it really helps us out to have a case number. This includes you Mike. Yes, William, that means *our* case number not *your* interoffice case number!

DRESS CODE

Out of town attorneys and interested parties, particularly those of you from the Atlanta Metropolitan Area, please be advised that this is an early morning docket call. This is not a trial or a fashion show. Informal attire is encouraged. Neckties and expensive suits are frowned upon. This goes for pretrial conferences also!

GOVERNMENT CENTER CAFETERIA

Great news, we once again have a cafeteria in the Government Center. You can get coffee and snacks en route to docket call or when returning to your office.

REFRESHMENTS

We might have some low calorie, fat free, sugar free donuts available.

PASS RULE

We use "pass until further notice" rule. If you pass a case on the civil trial docket it will not appear on another trial docket until someone writes (not mentions it in passing on the elevator at quitting time) us and asks that it be put on the next docket. We hope to save about \$500 again this year in postage doing this.

WEB BASED DOCKET

We are now through experimenting with the web. It works. If you want a hard copy of this docket come get one. If you heard about this docket but did not get email notification perhaps it is time you let us know your email address, or, if you for real don't have an email address use your grandchild's.



We have arrived in the 21st Century. You may now communicate with us via email about the docket. Please make sure to copy all correspondence to opposing counsel. If they don't have an email, some lawyers still don't, please send them hard copy and state that you have done so in your email. [aprather@columbusga.org](mailto:aprather@columbusga.org)

If you or anyone in your office is offended by the nature or form of our docket cover letters please so advise us and we will arrange for your office to be sent a plain docket without a cover letter.