

Andy Prather, Judge
Joyce Smallwood, Adm. Asst.

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

Telephone (706) 653-4318
Fax: Available upon request if you promise 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.

DATE: March 1, 2010
TO: All attorneys of record and pro-se litigants
FROM: Andy Prather, Muscogee County State Court Judge
RE: **Civil Trial Docket call for March Term, 2010**

(Special note to Andrew R.: This letter may actually be mailed out before this date. Try not to G.Y.P.I.A.W. over it.)

This is the Muscogee County State Court Civil Trial Docket for the March Term of 2010 Judge Andy Prather Division.

Docket Call is at **8:15 A.M.** on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Trials start April 12, 2010 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** March 20, 2010 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. *Especially all Atlanta Metro law offices.*

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 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.

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

The Government Center has a full service cafeteria. It opens at 7:00 A.M. If you purchase coffee or some other liquid before docket call please remember to get a top for it so you won't spill it on the carpet in the courtroom. It took us twenty-two years to get new carpet the last time.

REFRESHMENTS

As always, donuts will be provided at docket call. If you have any special dietary requirements and cannot eat sugar laden, high fat, greasy foods please advise us at least ninety (90) days in advance so that we can provide an appropriate alternative for you and other high maintenance individuals.

We are again using the "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.

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 great great 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

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.