

Muscogee County State Court Civil Trial Docket for the
September Term of 2018,
Division 2 (Prather)

Peremptory Docket Call is at **8:15 A.M.** on Wed. September 26, 2018 at the location described below. Trials start Mon., October 22, 2018 at 8:30 AM. Pretrial conference date is to be decided at docket call. If you can agree with opposing counsel that you want your case set down just let us know by letter or [email](#) **before** September 26, 2018 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 the parties cannot agree that the case is ready, we can discuss the issue at docket call. If you pass a case on the civil trial docket it will not appear on another trial docket until someone [writes](#) or [emails](#) us and asks that it be put on the next docket. Formal courtroom attire, including, but not limited to, coats and ties, is NOT required at docket call, especially under the current Muscogee County Courthouse conditions.

DOCKET CALL LOCATION (updated 9/11/18)

We have been provided with an indoor location for Docket Call on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Docket Call will be held in Judge Gottfried's Hearing Room on the Third Floor of the Government Center Tower, 100 10th Street, Columbus, Georgia. The only entrance available the public is on the Second Avenue entrance to the East Wing of the Government Center complex. Attorneys who have identification cards issued by the Muscogee County Sheriff can access the Government Center through the North door of the East Wing and bypass the public entrance. I am sorry for the confusion and inconvenience. Contrary to what some have suggested, Judge McBride cannot simply sign an order and direct the governing authority of the Columbus Consolidated Government to repair the courtrooms damaged eighty-five days ago.

JURY TRIAL SITE

The location for September Term jury trials is unknown at this time. The only civil jury trial that has been conducted in Muscogee County since the June 18 flood was held partially in the courthouse and partially in the Columbus Trade Center. From a logistical standpoint, a twelve-person civil jury trial that would ordinarily take two or three days to try will take at least five days under these conditions. The availability of courtroom space for the week of October 22 is questionable. State Court civil matters are the last in priority when assigning courtrooms or hearing rooms. There is currently a backlog of Superior Court trials. Based upon the progress so far, the probability of any additional courtroom resources becoming available before October 22 is in doubt.

