



## State Court of Muscogee County

COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT  
Post Office Box 1340 • Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

Pythias Temesgen  
Judge

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May 1, 2026

*Via Email To:*

Honorable Skip Henderson  
Ms. Pamela Hodge

RE: HB 85 & Judicial Compensation

Dear Mayor Henderson and Deputy City Manager Hodge:

As you know, HB 85 was signed into law in 2025, and it changed how the compensation of a Superior Court Judge is determined. Among other things, it shifted judicial salaries to the State from the Counties.

HB 85 also explicitly eliminated County-paid supplements, except that a gradually disappearing County paid "locality pay" of 10% is authorized. Locality pay is reduced over time as the base salary from the State increases over the years.

With respect to the Muscogee County State Court Judges, authorizing local legislation links our compensation to that of the Superior Court Judges, providing that we receive 90% of their pay. Our salary increases linked with the new law had been suspended, but the suspension will expire on July 1, 2026.

Before January 1, 2026, when HB 85 went into effect, CCG paid each Superior Court Judge a supplement of approximately \$27,150.60. Now after enactment of HB 85, CCG pays each active Superior Court Judge an annual locality salary of \$10,917.56. This resulted in annual savings to CCG of \$16,223.04 per Superior Court Judge, and an aggregate savings of **\$113,613.28**.

Our Bench requests that the Columbus Consolidated Government/Muscogee County ("CCG") provide the two State Court Judges of Muscogee County with the same locality pay it is now paying to the Superior Court Judges, to bring our salaries closer to 90% consistent with the authorizing local legislation.

Best Regards,



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Judge Pythias "Pete" Temesgen  
Muscogee County State Court