



**ARTHUR L. SMITH, III**  
CHIEF JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS

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May 4, 2023

Honorable B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III  
City Manager Isaiah Hughley  
Finance Director Angelica Alexander

*Via email and hand delivery*

Re: Court Administrator Compensation

The compensation for our Court Administrator, Mr. Ed Berry, is funded currently from three sources. As such, he plays three important roles, of which court administrator is one. Based on the Evergreen Study, attached, a court administrator should be compensated approximately \$76,000.00 per year, for those duties.

Currently Mr. Berry is compensated \$10,000 from the City of Columbus. His other compensation comes from his role as Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution for the Circuit, and as coordinator of the Legitimation Station program with funds coming from the office of crime prevention.

Mr. Berry is a college graduate and in addition obtained his law degree from Mercer University. He is a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia. His education and years of experience as a practicing attorney who ran a law firm, much like running a small business, have equipped him with the skill sets necessary for his current role.

A day will come when Mr. Berry retires, and we will be in the market for a replacement. In line with the Evergreen Study, the City of Columbus would be faced with a salary in the \$76,000.00 range for a candidate without a law degree.

If we were successful in recruiting a member of the State Bar with administrative experience, we would likely need to offer a salary in the \$100,000.00 range, to start. We respectfully reiterate the need to adjust the City funded portion of Mr. Berry's salary, upward. We believe and continue to believe that a \$25,000 salary increase is appropriate, but if that is not possible, we ask the City to provide a meaningful increase this year.

Sincerely,

Judge Arthur L. Smith, III  
Chief Judge of Superior Courts  
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

ALS,III/lb

Cc: Mr. Ed Berry, Esq.  
Superior Court Judges

LAST	FIRST	EMP ID	CLASS DATE	CLASS YEARS	GRA DE	DEPARTMENT	DEP T #	UNIT	UNIT #
BERRY	EDWARD	0000024080	42370	6.8	G18	Superior Court	500	Chief Judge - Superior Court	1000
BOSTIC	KATHY	0000010912	40940	10.7	G21	Superior Court	500	Judge Gottfried	2195
CAIDWELL	STEPHANIE	0000104207	44410	1.2	G20	Superior Court	500	Chief Judge - Superior Court	1000
CAVANAUGH	ERIC	0000002593	40940	10.7	G21	Superior Court	500	Chief Judge - Superior Court	1000
DAVIS	BRIANNA	0000102086	43977	2.3	G16	Superior Court	500	Judge Gottfried	2195
GRAY	COURTNEY	0000021500	41120	10.2	G21	Superior Court	500	Judge Mullins	2150
LITTLE	PEGGY	0000010137	40940	10.7	G21	Superior Court	500	Judge Smith	2170
MCDONALD	CYNTHIA	0000104264	44438	1.1	G20	Superior Court	500	Judge Mullins	2150
RUSSELL	MICHAEL	0000015353	40940	10.7	G21	Superior Court	500	Judge Peters	2180
RUSSELL	INNA	0000025988	43150	4.6	G21	Superior Court	500	Judge Land	2190

CLASS TITLE	MIN	MID	MAX	F L S A	Annual	FTE
DRUG COURT COORDINATOR	\$ 43,023.41	\$ 55,062.62	\$ 67,101.82	E E	\$ 9,999.86	0.5 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 71,207.24	1 0
LAW CLERK W//JURIS	\$ 49,408.38	\$ 63,234.29	\$ 77,060.20	E E	\$ 50,396.58	1 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 71,207.24	1 0
CASE MANAGER JUVENILE DRUG CRT	\$ 40,551.76	\$ 51,899.33	\$ 63,246.91	E E	\$ 38,924.08	0.25 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 57,017.48	1 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 71,207.24	1 0
LAW CLERK W//JURIS	\$ 47,027.60	\$ 60,187.30	\$ 73,347.01	E E	\$ 50,396.58	1 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 71,207.24	1 0
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	\$ 54,537.60	\$ 69,798.83	\$ 85,060.05	E E	\$ 57,017.74	1 0

Recommended Classification	Recommended Grade	Recommended Minimum	Change	Recommended Midpoint	Change	Recommended Maximum	Change	Assessment Year
Judicial Court Coordinator/Assistant	122	\$ 47,103.02	0.09	\$ 60,040.28	9%	\$ 72,977.54	9%	6
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
LAW CLERK W/JURIS	124	\$ 52,425.67	0.06	\$ 66,824.84	6%	\$ 81,224.00	5%	1
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
CASE MANAGER	120	\$ 42,723.83	0.05	\$ 54,458.31	5%	\$ 66,192.78	5%	1
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
LAW CLERK W/JURIS	124	\$ 52,425.67	0.11	\$ 66,824.84	11%	\$ 81,224.00	11%	1
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	9
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	126	\$ 58,905.48	0.08	\$ 75,084.38	8%	\$ 91,263.29	7%	3

Recommended Salary	Cost	% Adjustment
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\$ 23,551.51	\$ 13,551.65	136%
\$ 71,875.88	\$ 668.64	1%
\$ 53,479.42	\$ 3,082.84	6%
\$ 71,875.88	\$ 668.64	1%
#N/A	-	#N/A
\$ 69,071.31	\$ 12,053.83	21%
\$ 71,875.88	\$ 668.64	1%
\$ 53,479.42	\$ 3,082.84	6%
\$ 71,875.88	\$ 668.64	1%
\$ 62,529.35	\$ 5,511.61	10%