

# MEMORANDUM

January 16, 2014

To: The Gordon County Board of Commissioners

From: Garah Childers   
Human Resources Director

RE: Retirement Benefit for Superior Court Judges

Traditionally the retiring Superior Court Judges have been paid a retirement benefit based on a percentage of the supplement check paid by the governing authorities of the counties in the judicial circuit. While this has been a long standing practice, we can find no record of a Board of Commissioners ever taking a vote to approve this. I am requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider this request and vote in a meeting so that it is recorded in the minutes to pay this benefit to all retiring Superior Court Judges.

Thank you

Cc: File



**SUPERIOR COURTS**  
**CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**BARTOW AND GORDON COUNTIES**

**SHEPHERD L. HOWELL**  
JUDGE

December 23, 2013

135 WEST CHEROKEE AVENUE  
SUITE 322  
CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA 30120  
770-387-5124 PHONE  
770-606-2397 FAX

Ms. Garah Childers  
Human Resources  
201 North Wall Street  
Calhoun, Georgia 30701

RE: Superior Court Judges' Retirement Supplement

Dear Ms. Childers:

Please accept this letter as my official notice of retirement effective February 1, 2014. The Counties have always continued to pay a "retirement supplement" to the retired Superior Court Judges at the same rate that the State calculates retirement pay. The current supplement is \$20,000 per year, with Bartow County paying 63 percent and Gordon County paying 37 percent. There is currently proposed legislation raising the supplement to \$32,300 per year, to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2014. Local Legislators have assured me that passage of this local bill is almost certain. The Counties would pay that supplement amount, with Bartow County paying 64.5 percent and Gordon paying 35.5 percent.

The retirement pay under the Georgia Judicial Salary System is based on the salary at the time of retirement and is calculated at 66.66 percent for 16 years of service, plus one percent for each year of credible service over 16 years, with a maximum of 24 years. By my anticipated retirement day of February 1, 2014, I will have 24 years of credible service. This adds up to a retirement pay of 74.66 percent of an active Judge's pay.

Presuming the local legislation will pass as anticipated, the annual retirement supplement pay by Bartow County would be 64.5 percent of \$32,300 or \$15,554.29, and Gordon County would pay 35.5 percent of \$32,300 or \$8,560.89.

The retirement supplements have traditionally been paid monthly. I would not request any deductions be made in my retirement supplement check. I would ask the check be mailed to me at P.O. Box 44, Cartersville, Georgia 30120.

If you have any question or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours very truly,

Shepherd L. Howell, Judge

SLH/ks