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Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors
101 E. Main Street
Starkville, MS 39759

RE: District Attorney Office Move to 522 2nd Ave. North, Columbus, MS

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As you all know, pursuant to state law, the District Attorney for Circuit Court District 16 serves Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Clay and Noxubee counties. For at least the last thirty years, the District Attorney's Office for this Circuit has been located at 220 5th Street North, Columbus, MS. Lowndes County owns this building and has allowed the DA's office to use it rent free. Lowndes County has also paid the utility bills for this building without contribution from the other counties in the Circuit. Over the decades, the building has become an occupational hazard. In short, it is likely full of asbestos. Indeed, Lowndes County has plans to tear the building down.

In that regard, the District Attorney's Offices needs a new office building. I have searched for a new building for the District Attorney's office for the last few months and, after careful review, have found a potential building to lease. The building is located at 522 2nd Ave. North, Columbus, MS and is owned by the estate of Frank Lee. It is a two story building with a total of 10 offices, plus other office accommodations. It sufficiently meets the needs of this Circuit's District Attorney's Office. My office and the landlord have reached a tentative agreement of a \$2500 a month lease plus utilities. The lease would run until the end of my current term as District Attorney on Dec. 31, 2019.

Since the District Attorney's office will be entering into a private lease, the other counties in the Circuit need to contribute to the monthly lease and the utility bill. My proposal is for the breakdown to be the same as for the other services split between the counties for this Circuit Court Circuit, as follows:

Lowndes County: 42.7%
Oktibbeha County: 33.3%
Clay County: 15%
Noxubee County: 9%

Based on this percentage, Oktibbeha County's portion of the monthly lease would be approximately \$825. I am not able to provide the county with a reasonable projection of the county's portion of the utility cost because the building has been unoccupied for a significant period of time. Lowndes County has tentatively agreed to pay the utility cost upfront and bill Oktibbeha County its portion of the bill based on the above listed percentage.

In summary, I'm requesting the Oktibbeha County board of supervisors agree to pay \$825 a month for the lease of a new District Attorney building for this Circuit along with an agreement to reimburse Lowndes County 33.3% of the monthly utility bill for the office. I appreciate your consideration of this matter. It's an honor to serve as your District Attorney.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Colom