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## U.S. Judge Perry falls ill before hearing

U.S. Judge Matthew Perry fell ill Thursday morning in his third-floor office at the Perry District Courthouse in Columbia.

Perry, 87, was supposed to preside over a 10 a.m. hearing involving a contentious lawsuit over allegations brought against Clemson University by a former secretary to the board of trustees, Gene Troutman.

Courthouse personnel said Perry was suffering from a stomach ailment.

Medics from the Richland County emergency medical service showed up shortly after 10 a.m. and went into his office.

After 35-40 minutes, Perry was loaded onto the back of a county ambulance at the back loading platform of the federal courthouse.

Perry is regarded as a South Carolina legend for his trailblazing work in civil rights law in the state during the 1950s and '60s.

There was no immediate word on his condition. He was reportedly taken to Palmetto Health Richland hospital.

In today's hearing, Clemson lawyers were expected to seek return of documents the university says were improperly obtained by Troutman. Troutman's attorney, Joel Collins of Columbia, was expected to contest that. Troutman's lawsuit alleges he was fired improperly in 2007 and that university officials accumulated an \$80 million cash stockpile while hiking tuition and seeking more money from the legislature. University officials deny that.

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