

**Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, Oral History Project,
Oral History Interviews**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm00084708>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009256>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009
Revised 2022 July

Collection Summary

Title: Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, Oral History Project, Oral History Interviews

Inclusive Dates: 1959-2020

Bulk Dates: 1991-2020

Creator: Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, Oral History Project

Extent: 100 items

Extent: 17 containers

Extent: 6.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm00084708>

Summary: Transcripts of oral history interviews with judges, judges' spouses, lawyers, and court staff associated with the United States Circuit Court for the District of Columbia. Topics include biographical information, judicial procedures, prominent cases, and law clerks.

Acquisition Information

Transcripts of interviews from the Oral History Project of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit were given to the Library of Congress by the society between 1997 and 2007. Additional transcripts were given to the Library by the society between 2008 and 2021.

Processing History

The oral history interviews of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit Oral History Project were arranged and described by Michael Spangler in 2008. The finding aid was revised and expanded by Kimberly Owens. The 2022 Addition was processed and finding aid revised in 2022 by Miles Lawlor.

Other Repositories

The Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit also holds copies of these interviews, which can be found at <https://dcchs.org/oral-histories/>.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the interviews of the Oral History Project of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The Oral History Interviews of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, Oral History Interviews, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Oral History Project of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit was initiated in 1991 to preserve the recollections of judges, judges' spouses, lawyers, and court staff associated primarily with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The interviews document primarily the period from the 1940s to 2020 and include biographical information, discussions of the judicial process, history of the circuit, the evolution of significant cases, and the role of law clerks in the circuit. Among the interviewees are Robert S. Bennett, Robert H. Bork, James Lane Buckley, Lloyd N. Cutler, Samuel Dash, Gerhard Alden Gesell, David Ginsburg, Erwin N. Griswold, Harold H. Greene, Abner J. Mikva, E. Barrett Prettyman Jr., Joseph L. Rauh, Patricia M. Wald, Paul C. Warnke, and Helen Patton Wright. Each transcript is supplemented by an index.

The 2022 Addition expands upon the material within the collection with additional oral histories from judges and lawyers of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Among the interviewees are Judith Areen, Katherine S. Broderick, William B. Bryant, Arthur L. Burnett, Charles T. Duncan, Douglas H. Ginsburg, William R. "Billy" Martin, Irvin B. Nathan, Frank Q. Nebeker, A. Raymond Randolph Jr., Richard Warren Roberts, Laurence H. Silberman, Mark H. Tuohey, and Reggie B. Walton. The addition also includes a 1959 oral history interview with Charles Fahy, which was conducted separately from the society's oral history project.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by name of interviewee, with an addition filed at the end.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Areen, Judith, 1944- --Interviews.
Bennett, Robert S.--Interviews.
Bork, Robert H.--Interviews.
Broderick, Katherine S., 1951- --Interviews.
Bryant, William B. (William Benson), 1911-2005--Interviews.
Buckley, James Lane, 1923- --Interviews.
Burnett, Arthur L., 1935- --Interviews.
Cutler, Lloyd N.--Interviews.
Dash, Samuel--Interviews.
Duncan, Charles T., 1925- --Interviews.
Fahy, Charles, 1892-1979--Interviews.
Gesell, Gerhard Alden, 1910-1993--Interviews.
Ginsburg, David, 1912-2010--Interviews.
Ginsburg, Douglas H., 1946- --Interviews.
Greene, Harold H.--Interviews.
Griswold, Erwin N. (Erwin Nathaniel), 1904-1994--Interviews.
Martin, Billy, 1949- --Interviews.
Mikva, Abner J.--Interviews.
Nathan, Irvin B.--Interviews.
Nebeker, Frank Q., 1930- --Interviews.
Prettyman, E. Barrett, Jr. (Elijah Barrett), 1925-2016--Interviews.
Randolph, A. Raymond, Jr.--Interviews.
Rauh, Joseph L., Jr., 1911-1992--Interviews.
Roberts, Richard Warren, 1953- --Interviews.

Silberman, Laurence H. (Laurence Hirsch), 1935- --Interviews.
Tuohey, Mark H.--Interviews.
Wald, Patricia M.--Interviews.
Walton, Reggie B.--Interviews.
Warnke, Paul C. (Paul Culliton), 1920-2001--Interviews.
Wright, Helen Patton, 1919-2007--Interviews.

Organizations

Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit. Oral History Project.
United States. Court of Appeals (District of Columbia Circuit)
United States. District Court (District of Columbia)

Subjects

Courts--Washington (D.C.)
Judges' spouses--Interviews.
Judges--Interviews.
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Lawyers--Interviews.

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