

**John Spalding Flannery Papers**  
**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/mm96083668>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009292>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2023 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Spalding Flannery Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1902-1953

**Bulk Dates:** 1902-1929

**ID No.:** MSS83668

**Creator:** Flannery, John Spalding, 1870-1954

**Extent:** 500 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** .8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083668>

**Summary:** Lawyer. Chiefly records from McKenney, Flannery & Craighill, the Washington, D.C. law firm in which Flannery was a principal partner.

## 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

Flannery, John Spalding, 1870-1954.

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr., 1841-1935.

Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948.

Mischler, Wendell W., 1870-

Taft, Helen Herron, 1861-1943--Correspondence.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

### Organizations

McKenney, Flannery & Craighill. McKenney, Flannery & Craighill records.

### Subjects

Indians of North America--Claims.

Indians of North America--Legal status, laws, etc.

Law firms--Washington (D.C.)

Legal assistance to Indians.

Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)

### Occupations

Lawyers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of John Spalding Flannery, lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by Mary Jackson Loftus Craighill, in 1995.

## Processing History

The papers of John Spalding Flannery were arranged and described in 1997 by Bradley E. Gernand. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division. One broadside has been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the John Spalding Flannery Papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Spalding Flannery in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Spalding Flannery 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, John Spalding Flannery Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1870, 16 May	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1894	LL.B., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1895	LL.M., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1895-	Practiced law, independently and as member of firm McKenney & Flannery (later McKenney, Flannery & Craighill), Washington, D.C.
1909	Married Isabel Gautier Gregory
1920-1926	General counsel to federal receiver of Red River Valley in boundary dispute, <i>Oklahoma v. Texas</i>
1938	Special master in lawsuit <i>Texas v. Florida</i>
1954, 17 Feb.	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Spalding Flannery (1870-1954) consist of records of McKenney, Flannery & Craighill, a Washington, D.C., law firm with which Flannery was associated, and span the dates 1902-1953, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1902-1929. The principal partners of the firm, Frederick D. McKenney and Flannery, practiced before the United States Supreme Court and represented several American Indian tribes in legal actions against the federal government. The firm counted at least three sitting justices of the Supreme Court as clients. Records include Oliver Wendell Holmes's last wills and testaments and information regarding the design and construction of Charles Evans Hughes's Washington, D.C., residence. Records concerning President William H. Taft were given to the firm by the estate of his longtime secretary, Wendell W. Mischler, and include correspondence, notes, photographs, press clippings, schedules, and personal records regarding Mischler's service to Taft and Taft's terms as president of the United States and chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. Correspondents include both William H. Taft and his wife, Helen Herron Taft.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic and therein chronologically or by type of material.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, 1903-1906
BOX 1	Confederated Bands of Ute Indians, 1911
BOX 1	Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1929-1933
BOX 1	Hughes, Charles Evans, 1930-1933, undated
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1902, circa 1910, 1924, 1942, 1953
BOX 1	Mischler, Wendell W., re William H. Taft
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1904-1929, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Court opinions, 1929, undated
BOX 1	Shorthand notes
BOX 2	Typescripts
BOX 2	Last will and testament, 1925
BOX 2	Ledger, 1920-1929, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1909-1912, undated
BOX 2	Personal notes, 1907-1909, undated
BOX 2	Photographs, 1922-1927