

Dalton Roberson Collection

Papers, 1970's-1990's

1 linear foot

Accession #1735

Provenance

The papers of Dalton Roberson were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Judge Roberson in October of 1999 and opened for research in January of 2004.

Bio/Historical Info

Dalton Roberson came to Michigan in 1953 to find work after graduating from high school. He was a boom operator for the U.S. Air Force before earning his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University in 1967. He then worked for the Department of Social Services before attending the Detroit College of Law. After graduating, he worked on criminal cases for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and eventually opened up a law firm with Robert Harrison and Bernard Friedman. He has also served as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor and an assistant U.S. attorney. Other accomplishments include being elected to Recorder's Court in 1974 and eventually being elected Chief Judge of Recorder's Court in 1987. He has also been a lecturer at several Detroit area law institutes. He has been praised and criticized in his career: in 1992 he earned accolades from the National Conference of Black Lawyers as judge of the year, but Reader's Digest cited him as one of the country's worst judges in 1999. Roberson never had any regrets about his actions, however, and always stood firm in his beliefs of justice. He retired in 1999.

The papers of Judge Roberson deal primarily with felony cases he was involved in, his election campaigns, clippings concerning him and some correspondence.

Subjects

African American judges
African American judges-Biography
African American lawyers
African American lawyers-History

Contents

1 storage box

This box of records consists mainly of clippings, felony case information, election information and correspondence to Roberson.

Box 1

- 1-1 Awards
- 1-2 Case List for Portia Roberson
- 1-3 Class Reunion; Correspondence; 1978
- 1-4 Clippings; Celebrations and Gatherings
- 1-5 Clippings; Elections and Appointments; 1970s
- 1-6 Clippings; Elections and Appointments; 1980s
- 1-7 Clippings; Endorsements
- 1-8 Clippings; Malice Green Case
- 1-9 Clippings; Lawyers
- 1-10 Clippings; Murder Cases
- 1-11 Complaint against Edward Lawrence; 1983
- 1-12 Congratulatory Cards
- 1-13 Congratulation to Chief Judge Appointment; Correspondence; 1987
- 1-14 Congratulations to Recorders Court Appointment; Correspondence; 1974
- 1-15 Detroit Legal News; 1991
- 1-16 Felony Cases; Sean Beckley
- 1-17 Felony Cases; Joseph Cummings
- 1-18 Felony Cases; General
- 1-19 Felony Cases; General
- 1-20 Felony Cases; General
- 1-21 Felony Cases; Richard Oliver
- 1-22 Felony Cases; Anthony Scott
- 1-23 Felony Cases; Juan Williams
- 1-24 General Correspondence to Roberson
- 1-25 General Election Information
- 1-26 Instruction Ballot for Voters
- 1-27 Instruction Ballot for Voters
- 1-28 Lists and Receipts
- 1-29 Michigan Chronicle; 1991
- 1-30 People vs. Freddie Douglass Case
- 1-31 People vs. Larry Nevers, et.al Case; Correspondence
- 1-32 Retirement Speech; 1999
- 1-33 Roberson Assignments
- 1-34 Roberson; Election Cards and Pamphlets
- 1-35 Schlossberg vs. State Bar Grievance Board; 1972
- 1-36 Unofficial Canvass of the General Election; 1974