

James Lopez Watson Collection

**Papers, 1960s-1980s
(Predominately 1970s)**

2 linear feet

Accession #1736

Provenance

The papers of James Lopez Watson were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in November of 1999 and were opened for research in December 2003.

Bio/Historical Info

James Lopez Watson comes from a distinguished family and his father's dedication to law is what inspired Judge Watson to follow in his footsteps, becoming first a lawyer and later a judge. Judge Watson first served in the 92nd Infantry Division during WW II, where he received many awards for his outstanding service. His brush with death in Italy contributed to his calmness and detachment required for a judge. It also allowed him to define his goals and values more clearly. Upon returning home, Watson completed college, receiving his bachelor of laws degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1951, after which he entered private practice. Three years later he was elected to the New York State Senate where he served until 1963, where upon he was elected to New York City Civil Court. His friendship with Lyndon Johnson led to his federal appointment to the US Customs Court. During his service on the United States Court of International Trade Watson chaired the court's legislative committee, which helped develop many Acts, such as the Custom Court Act and the Trade Agreements Act. He is also a founding member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association and lectured at many law schools. Watson holds the record for the number of assignments received by a federal judge to other courts, sitting more than seventy times as a visiting judge in district courts around the country.

The collection of Judge Watson, primarily deals with correspondence with other judges, committee members, Judicial Council business, and the National Bar Association.

Subjects

- African American judges
- African American judges-Biography
- African American lawyers
- African American lawyers-History
- Judicial Council
- National Bar Association

Correspondents

Judge George Crockett Jr.
Judge Joseph Howard
Judge James Watson
Gilbert Ware

Contents

2 storage boxes

These 2 storage boxes of records consist mainly of judge correspondence, Judicial Council business, executive committee correspondence, clippings of important law related events and National Bar Association information. They are arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

1-Box

- 1-1 American Judicature Society
- 1-2 Articles of Incorporation
- 1-3 Book Proposal on Law and Justice
- 1-4 Clippings; African American Judges; 1970s
- 1-5 Clippings; African American Jurists; 1970s
- 1-6 Clippings; African American Lawyers; 1970s
- 1-7 Clippings; Alexander, Judge H.T.; 1970s
- 1-8 Clippings; Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; 1970s
- 1-9 Clippings; General Information; 1960s-1970s
- 1-10 Clippings; National Bar Association; 1970s
- 1-11 Clippings; Osser; 1970s
- 1-12 Clippings; Wright, Judge B.; 1970s
- 1-13 Convention at Miami Beach, Draft Tentative; 1972
- 1-14 Court Excerpts
- 1-15 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Articles by
- 1-16 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Correspondence from; 1971
- 1-17 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Correspondence from; 1972
- 1-18 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Correspondence from; 1973-1975
- 1-19 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Correspondence to; 1971-1973
- 1-20 Crockett Jr., Judge G.W.; Speech to NBA; 1969
- 1-21 Executive Committee; Correspondence from Chairman; 1971
- 1-22 Executive Committee; Correspondence from Officers and Members; 1971-1974
- 1-23 Executive Committee; Correspondence to Chairman; 1971-1972
- 1-24 Executive Committee; Officer and members Lists; 1970s
- 1-25 Executive Committee; Treasurer's Reports; 1970s
- 1-26 Hatchett, Joseph Woodrow; Autobiography
- 1-27 Howard, Judge J.C.; Correspondence from; 1972-1973
- 1-28 Howard, Judge J.C.; Correspondence to; 1972-1973
- 1-29 Judges; General Correspondence; 1971-1973

- 1-30 Judicial Council; By Laws
- 1-31 Judicial Council; Convention at Miami Beach; Correspondence; 1972
- 1-32 Judicial Council; Dallas Meeting; Correspondence; 1980
- 1-33 Judicial Council; Meeting Minutes; 1972
- 1-34 Judicial Council; Meeting Notices; 1971
- 1-35 Judicial Council; Meetings and Agendas; 1970s-1980s
- 1-36 Judicial Council; Membership Acknowledgements; 1970s-1980s
- 1-37 Judicial Council; Membership Certificate; Correspondence; 1971-1973
- 1-38 Judicial Council; Membership Dues; Correspondence; 1971-1973
- 1-39 Judicial Council; Membership Dues; Correspondence to Treasurer; 1971-1973
- 1-40 Judicial Council; Memphis Meeting; 1972
- 1-41 Judicial Council; Miami Meeting; 1972
- 1-42 Judicial Council; Mid-Winter Meeting; Correspondence; 1973
- 1-43 Judicial Council; Planning Committee; Correspondence; 1971-1972
- 1-44 Law Journal; Correspondence; 1971
- 1-45 Miller, Irma; Correspondence from; 1971-1972

2-Box

- 2-1 National Bar Association; Convention and Events
- 2-2 National Bar Association; Membership Application; June 1971
- 2-3 National Bar Association; Membership Application; July 1971
- 2-4 National Bar Association; Membership Application; August 1971
- 2-5 National Bar Association; Membership Application; September-December 1971
- 2-6 National Bar Association; Membership Application; January 1972
- 2-7 National Bar Association; Membership Application; February-August 1972
- 2-8 National Bar Association; Membership Application; February-May 1973
- 2-9 National Bar Association; Membership Application; No Date
- 2-10 National Bar Association Programs and Pamphlets
- 2-11 Phipps Center Information
- 2-12 Program Committee Members
- 2-13 Programmatic Suggestions
- 2-14 Toles, Edward; Reports
- 2-15 Travel Expenses; Correspondence; 1971-1972
- 2-16 Ware, Gilbert; Articles by
- 2-17 Ware, Gilbert; Correspondence from; 1971-1972
- 2-18 Ware, Gilbert; Correspondence to; 1971-1972
- 2-19 Watson, Judge J.L.; Correspondence from; 1970-1974
- 2-20 Watson, Judge J.L.; Correspondence to; 1971-1974
- 2-21 Watson, Judge J.L.; Correspondence to; 1975-1979

