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David Scribner held a long career in the field of law beginning in the 1930s. He specialized in civil liberties and labor law and often took on cases with political implications. This collection consists of personal documents, professional legal documents, notes, correspondence, publications, and newspaper clippings.

History

David Scribner was born around 1907 in Russia and raised on the lower east side of Manhattan. He attended City College and graduated from Brooklyn Law School. Scribner worked at the New York State Labor Relations Board as senior litigation counsel and general counsel for United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE). He represented labor leaders accused of being Communists by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Scribner was part of the legal team representing the unarmed students that demonstrated on Kent State University campus in 1970 against President Nixon's order to bomb Cambodia, and for an end to the Vietnam War. He was active in several organizations of socially-minded lawyers such as the International Labor Defense (ILD), National Lawyers Guild (NLG), Center for Constitutional Rights.
(CCR), and International Juridical Association (IJA). David met his wife, Sylvia Cohen, at UE. David and Sylvia married in 1953 and had two children together, Oliver and Aggie. David had 3 children from a previous marriage, Toni, Wendy, and Nancy. David Scribner passed away in 1991.

Scope and Content

This collection contains 3 series: Personal and Professional Association Information, Legal Case Files and Notes, and Publications and Notes. The Personal and Professional Association Information series contains a broad ephemera of personal and work-related materials, including his resume, prepared speech for NLG event where he was being honored, daughter Aggie's resume, and daughter Toni's letters. The Legal Case Files and Notes contains legal documents, notes, and correspondence. The Publications and Notes Files contain publications on labor history, civil rights, and legal strategy. Series 1: Personal and Professional Association Information, 1923-1990 Series 2: Legal Case Files and Notes, 1942-1986 Series 3: Publications and Notes, 1919-1982

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 3 series.

Folders in each series are listed by their location within each box. They are arranged in rough alphabetical order.


Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue
Immediate Source of Acquisition
The David Scribner Papers were donated to the Reuther in 1994 by Aggie Scribner.

Processing History
Processed and finding aid written by Julie Miller and Shae Rafferty on March 15, 2019.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Use
Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Controlled Access Headings

- Civil rights
- Labor laws and legislation
- Labor lawyers
- International Labor Defense
- National Lawyers Guild
- Scribner, Sylvia
- United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

Collection Inventory

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Series 1: Personal and Professional Association Information

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Resume-career, 1923-1980

Daughter Toni Scribner in Santiago, Chile, 1973

Daughter Toni Scribner, Grandson Roberto, 1980-1982

Daughter Augusta Scribner resume, 1982

Law firm Reinhardt and Schachter, 1983

Miscellaneous, 1975-1990

Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), 1973-1989

Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), 1985-1987

Fund for Open Information and Accountability (FOIA), 1984-1989

International Juridical Association (IJA) notes for bulletin, undated

Labor Research Association (LRA), 1984-1986

National Lawyers Guild (NLG), 1974-1990

National Lawyers Guild (NLG), 1978-1987

National Lawyers Guild (NLG), 1983-1985

National Lawyers Guild (NLG) New York City Chapter 46th Anniversary Dinner honoring David Scribner; Scribner's speech detailing his career, 1983


National Lawyers Guild (NLG), 1989-1990

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## Series 2: Legal Case Files and Notes

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McGrain v. Daughtery, 1972-1973  
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National Lawyers Guild v. F.B.I., 1983  
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Opening and Closing notes, undated  
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Puerto Rico legal project, 1975-1982  
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Rosow case, 1963  
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Peter Seeger v. United States, 1960  
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Shuttleworth v. Arthur Halpern, Ronmar Specialties, 1979  
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Steelworkers Rank and File Committee report, 1976-1977  
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J. P. Stevens case, 1964-1977  
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United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) and FBI surveillance, 1954-1955  
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United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) brief and notes, 1945  
Box 2  Folder 21

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), CIO handbook, 1944  
Box 2  Folder 22

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), CIO handbook, Ernest DeMaio, 1981  
Box 2  Folder 23

Scope and Contents

Ernest DeMaio, union organizer and a UE labor leader

United Electrical (UE) legal case, 1942-1956  
Box 2  Folder 24

Vo Thi Lien v. U.S. - War Crimes, 1970  
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Scope and Contents

Warning: contains photos of bloody victims of war

Watergate - impeachment and special prosecutor, 1973  
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Series 3: Publications and Notes

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