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# **Guide to the Robert E. DeMascio Papers LP002075**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	DeMascio, Robert E.
<b>Title:</b>	Robert E. DeMascio Papers
<b>ID:</b>	LP002075
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1970-1997
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1975-1980
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Linear Feet 5 SB
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Material entirely in English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Robert E. DeMascio, a Detroit lawyer, was appointed to the U.S. District Court Eastern Michigan District in 1971. He served as a U.S. District Judge from this time, until his death in 1999. During his tenure as a Judge he worked with bankruptcy law, including serving multiple committees relating to bankruptcy legislation and the Judicial Conference's Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. Notably, Judge DeMascio was assigned the Bradley v. Milliken case of school desegregation in Detroit Public Schools. DeMascio worked on this case from 1975 until 1980, creating court ordered improvements to the school system. He also established the Monitoring Commission, to audit the implementation of court ordered changes to the schools.

### Preferred Citation

"Robert E. DeMascio Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## History

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Robert Edward DeMascio was born in Corapolis, Pennsylvania on January 11, 1923 to Peter and Rosa Baretta DeMascio. DeMascio attended Wayne State University from 1942-1943, before serving in the U.S. Navy reserves during WWII from 1943-1946. He attended University of Illinois from 1944-1945 before returning to Wayne State University for 1947-1948. After completing his degree DeMascio attended law school at Wayne, graduating with an LL.B in 1951. Upon graduation, DeMascio worked as a private practice lawyer in Detroit until his appointment to the Office of U.S. Attorneys serving from 1954-1961 as Assistant U.S. Attorney and rising to the position of Chief of the Criminal Division. He returned to private legal practice from 1961-1966, before becoming a Judge in Detroit Recorder's Court in 1967.

On June 14, 1971, Judge DeMascio was nominated by President Nixon to the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan. The Senate confirmed his appointment on July 22, 1971. In 1975, DeMascio took over the complicated desegregation case of *Bradley v. Milliken* from Judge Roth. For five years DeMascio worked to enforce desegregation in Detroit schools and a number of court-ordered improvements. With the involvement of the state of Michigan, Detroit public schools, the NAACP, and teacher unions, DeMascio worked to enforce changes in busing and district attendance, working closely with the established Monitoring Commission to implement plans and evaluate progress. In 1980, after an attorney involved in the case accused Judge DeMascio of no longer being impartial, DeMascio was encouraged to recuse himself from the case even though a review of his work did not support the attorney's claims. During his time as a U.S. District Judge, DeMascio served on an Ad Hoc Committee on Bankruptcy Legislation and also as a member of the Judicial Conference's Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. In January 16, 1988, Judge DeMascio achieved senior status and continued to serve as a U.S. District Judge until his death on March 23, 1999.

Robert E. DeMascio married Margaret Loftus in 1955, they had three children: Robert Jr., Thomas, and Mary.

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## Scope and Contents

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All of the materials in this collection are from Judge DeMascio's work as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. While the dates included in the collection stretch from 1970-1997, the majority of documents are from 1975-1980. All of the files have been placed in a single series titled U.S. District Judge. Within in this series are three subseries: Administrative files, Bankruptcy, and *Bradley v. Milliken* – desegregation case.

Subseries 1: Administrative files. Consists of biographical questionnaires, court correspondence, Judges' meeting minutes and agendas, and files related to DeMascio's nomination and appointment to the court.

Also found in this subseries are newspaper clippings, speeches given at naturalization ceremonies, and a monograph written by DeMascio for publication.

Subseries 2: Bankruptcy files. This subseries consists of folders relating to DeMascio's work with bankruptcy law including papers from the Ad Hoc Committee on Bankruptcy Legislation and Judicial Conference of the United States' Bankruptcy Committee.

Subseries 3: Bradley v. Milliken – desegregation case. This subseries consists of papers from DeMascio's work as the assigned judge to the Bradley v. Milliken case. Case law and reference materials with notes, DeMascio's personal working papers, meetings and correspondence with the Monitoring Commission, and newspaper clippings, are all included in this subseries.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is arranged in 1 series and 3 subseries. Folders in all subseries are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries 1: Administrative files (Box 1-2)

Subseries 2: Bankruptcy (Box 2-3)

Subseries 3: Bradley v. Milliken – desegregation case (Box 3-5)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

### Processing Information

Processed and finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library on October 6, 2017

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Fay O'Hare Papers; Wayne State University College of Education, Dean's office; Detroit Public Schools Monitoring Commission on Desegregation Records; Merle Henrickson Papers; Detroit Public Schools Community Relations Division Records; Mary Ellen Riordan Papers

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Courts --United States
- Detroit (Mich.)
- School integration
- Busing for School Integration
- School improvement programs
- Detroit Public Schools

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## Collection Inventory

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### U.S. District Judge

#### Administrative files

Title/Description	Instances
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Biographical information, 1971-1993	Box 1	Folder 1
Biographical questionnaires, 1971-1997	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence - Miscellaneous Court, 1972	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence - Miscellaneous Court, 1973-1977	Box 1	Folder 4-5
Correspondence - Miscellaneous Court, 1978	Box 1	Folder 6
Correspondence - Miscellaneous Court, 1979	Box 1	Folder 7
Correspondence - U.S. District Court, 1997	Box 1	Folder 8-10
In the matter of U.S. probation officer, 1977	Box 1	Folder 11
In the matter of William Harper - bankruptcy clerk, 1980-1981	Box 1	Folder 12-13
Judge Feikens interview by Peter Brown, undated	Box 1	Folder 14
Judge Kaess portrait, 1981	Box 1	Folder 15
Judges' meeting minutes, 1971-1974	Box 1	Folder 16-17
Judges' meeting agendas, 1992-1993	Box 1	Folder 18-19
Magistrate - general, 1977	Box 2	Folder 1-2
Naturalization speeches, August 1974 and March 1985	Box 2	Folder 3
Newspaper clippings, 1971-1985	Box 2	Folder 4
Nomination: Affidavit, declaration of appointee, and oath of office, July-August 1971	Box 2	Folder 5
Nomination: Correspondence regarding nomination, January-August 1971	Box 2	Folder 6-7
Nomination: Personal data questionnaire, 1971	Box 2	Folder 8
Nomination: State bar questionnaire, 1971	Box 2	Folder 9
Publication - Monograph for National Legal Center for the Public Interest, May 1983	Box 2	Folder 10

## Bankruptcy

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Ad Hoc Committee: Administrative office material, 1977	Box 2	Folder 11
Ad Hoc Committee: Correspondence, May-June 1977	Box 2	Folder 12
Ad Hoc Committee: Correspondence, June-October 1977	Box 2	Folder 13
Ad Hoc Committee: Personal material, 1977-1978	Box 2	Folder 14
Ad Hoc Committee: Publication - Bankruptcy Law Revision - Report of the Committee on the Judiciary, September 8, 1977	Box 2	Book 15
Ad Hoc Committee: Publication - H.R.7330, May 23, 1977	Box 2	Book 16

Ad Hoc Committee: Publication - Tables of Bankruptcy Statistics, 1975-1976	Box 2	Book 17
Bankruptcy Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, 1975	Box 3	Folder 1
Committee on Bankruptcy Eastern District of Michigan, 1976-1978	Box 3	Folder 2

## **Bradley v. Milliken - desegregation**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Case law: File 1, 1971-1975	Box 3	Folder 3-4
Case law: File 2, 1954-1974	Box 3	Folder 5
Case law: File 3, 1975	Box 3	Folder 6
Case law: File 4, 1975-1976	Box 3	Folder 7
Case law: File 5, 1975-1977	Box 3	Folder 8
Case law: File 6, 1979	Box 3	Folder 9
Case law: Boston school desegregation case, 1974	Box 3	Folder 10
Community, June-August 1975	Box 3	Folder 11
Community and relations service, 1975-1978	Box 3	Folder 12
Court case opinions, 1973, 1976	Box 3	Folder 13
Docket, 1970-1996	Box 3	Folder 14
Experts, 1975	Box 4	Folder 1
Harvard Project on School Desegregation report, January 1994	Box 4	Folder 2
Meeting with Deans and Officers, 1975	Box 4	Folder 3
Memorandum opinion, 1975-1980	Box 4	Folder 4
Miscellaneous, 1974-1994	Box 4	Folder 5
Miscellaneous papers, 1975-1978	Box 4	Folder 6-7
Monitoring Commission, analysis, and court orders, 1979-1980	Box 4	Folder 8
Monitoring Commission: Breakfast meetings, March-April 1979	Box 4	Folder 9
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1975	Box 4	Folder 10
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1976	Box 4	Folder 11
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1977	Box 4	Folder 12
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1978	Box 4	Folder 13
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1979	Box 4	Folder 14
Monitoring Commission: Correspondence, 1980	Box 4	Folder 15



Monitoring Commission: Orientation meeting, October 29, 1975	Box 4	Folder 16
Monitoring Commission: People involved, undated	Box 4	Folder 17
Motions, circa 1976-1978	Box 5	Folder 1
Newspaper clippings, 1975-1980	Box 5	Folder 2
Newspapers, 1975-1980	Box 5	Folder 3
Personal working papers, 1975-1979	Box 5	Folder 4
Personal working papers, 1975-1980	Box 5	Folder 5
Personal working papers - Copies of orders, 1975	Box 5	Folder 6
Personal working papers - Copies of orders, 1976-1980	Box 5	Folder 7
Recusal, undated	Box 5	Folder 8
Things to keep track of, 1975	Box 5	Folder 9
Unions, 1975	Box 5	Folder 10

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