George Crockett, Jr. was born August 10, 1909, in Jacksonville, Fl. He is a graduate of Morehouse College (1931) and the University of Michigan Law School (1934). Between degrees, he joined the Marine Cooks and Steward's Union (1931) and waited on tables aboard ships on trips between the U.S. and South America. He practiced law for a short period in Florida and West Virginia before becoming a lawyer with the U.S. Dept. of Labor (1939-1943) and a hearings examiner with the Fair Employment Practices Commission (1943). At this time, he was a member of the Government Employees Union (CIO). Thereafter, he worked with the UAW as a consultant on minorities (1944), director of its Fair Employment Practices Committee (1945), and then as an administrative assistant within its secretary treasurer's office (1946). During this period he also wrote a weekly column for the Michigan Chronicle. (1944-1946) and was a member of the National C.I.O. Anti-Discrimination Commission (1944-1945).

Crockett established a private practice and became one of five lawyers who represented the leadership of the Communists Party who had been charged with violating the Smith Act (1949-1950); he spent four months in jail for contempt in connection with this case. Thereafter, he became a founding partner of Goodman, Crockett, Eden and Robb, the first known interracial law partnership in the U.S. (1950-1966). Following an unsuccessful bid for the city council (1965), he was elected as a judge of the Detroit Recorders Court (1966-1978). After a short stint as the acting city corporation counsel for Detroit, Crockett then served five terms as a congressman (1980-1991) representing Michigan's 13th congressional district comprising a portion of Detroit. He died in 1997 at the age of 88.

Part I of the George Crockett, Jr. papers contains clippings, correspondences, and drafts of a column he wrote for the Michigan Chronicle during the mid 1940s entitled, "Labor Looks Ahead." Part II, which is the larger part of the collection, primarily contains records that reflect Crockett's activities as a Detroit Recorders Court judge, including correspondences, memos, agenda, minutes, various administrative records, reports, clippings, proposals, pleadings, articles, legal opinions and memoranda, court reform proposals, surveys, organizational charts, court orders, and tributes/testimonials, amongst other records. Crockett was presiding judge of that body in 1974. Part II of the collection provides a unique glimpse into the day-to-day activities of the Detroit Recorders Court during an important period in Detroit's history. That Crockett challenged the court's way of doing business, particularly as regards African Americans, makes these records particularly valuable.
Among important correspondents are:

Ager, William, Jr.  
Anderson, H.W.*  
Archer, Dennis  
Borman, Susan D.  
Brennan, Vincent  
Brown, Basil  
Bushnell, George  
Collins, Barbara-Rose  
Colombo, Robert J.  
Crockett, George, Jr.  
Cushman, Edward  
Davenport, Elvin L.  
Del Rio, James  
Edwards, George, Jr.  
Emery, John C.  
Gardner, Samuel C.  
Gillis, Joseph A.  
Girardin, Ray  
Gleicher, Morris  
Goldwater, Barry  
Goodman, Ernest  
Hathaway, James A.  
Heading, Henry  
Henderson, Erma  
Hood, Morris, Jr.  
Hooks, Benjamin  
Howard, Joseph  
Jobe, Judge  
Kavanagh, Thomas G.  
Kornegay, Francis A.  
Leonard, Donald S.  
Lesinski, T. John  
Lester, Clarence  
Levin, Carl  
Lucas, William  
Maher, Joseph E.  
Michael, Franck  
Miley, Paul*  
Milliken, William G.  
Montante, James  
Murphy, John  
O'Brien, John P.  
Olsen, Samuel H.  
Patricia, Boyle J.  
Penn, William H., Sr.  
Peterson, William  
Pointdexter, Thomas L.  
Ravitz, Justin C.  
Reuther, Victor*  
Reuther, Walter*  
Roberson, Dalton  
Rosenbaum, Paul A.  
Smokier, Nedwin L.  
Swainson, John B.  
Vaughn, Jackie, III  
White, Bruce  
Williams, G. Mennen  
Young, Coleman  
Young, Joseph

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

African American Criminal Justice  
Personnel  
African American judges  
African Americans  
Anti discrimination contract clause*  
Civil rights  
Court administration  
Criminal justice, administration of  
Detroit (Mich.). Recorder's Court  
Discrimination**  
Discrimination injustice administration  
Discrimination in law enforcement  
Discrimination - law and legislation  
Drug Traffic  
Federal Employment Practices Commission*  
Grand Jury  
Judges - United States  
Police Corruption  
Police Misconduct  
Race discrimination  
Seniority  
United Negro College Fund*

An index to correspondents specific to part II is located on pp. 11-12.

*These correspondents and subjects are only located in part I of the collection.  
** Material regarding this subject is found in parts I and II of the collection.
Contents

4 Storage Boxes
2 Manuscript Boxes

Part I

Series I, Correspondents and "Labor Looks Ahead" 1944-1946, Box 1:
Correspondence, clippings and drafts of column, "Labor Looks Ahead"

Part II

Series I, Subject Files, 1948-1979, Boxes 1-4:
Matters documented in this series concern such issues as assigned council,
bail, the court's docket, proposals to reorganize Recorders Court, and
proposals to establish one-man grand juries for narcotics-related cases.
Records reflecting these and other matters include correspondences, memos,
agenda, minutes, administrative records regarding Recorders Court, reports,
clippings, proposals, pleadings, articles, legal opinions and memoranda,
surveys, organizational charts, and court orders, amongst other records. The
folders are arranged alphabetically with the contents of the folders arranged
chronologically.

Series II, Correspondence with Recorder's Court Judges, 1973-1978, Box 4:
Correspondences and memos between Crockett and his colleagues on the Recorders
Court bench. The correspondences were primarily written in his capacity as
presiding judge of this court. The folders are arranged alphabetically with
the contents of the folders arranged chronologically.

Series III, General Correspondence, 1971-1978, Box 4:
Correspondence with constituents, members of the judiciary outside of
Recorders Court, public officials, politicians, law enforcement officers,
officers of civic organizations regarding numerous issues. The letters either
refer to the correspondent or the organization with which the correspondent is
connected. The folders are arranged alphabetically with the contents of the
folders arranged chronologically.

Series IV, Clippings & Tributes/Testimonials, 1952-1995, Box 5: The
clippings, which comprise the majority of the material in this series, concern
the New Bethel Case in which Crockett presided. Other clippings concern his
service as a congressman. Various tributes/testimonials from the 1980s and
1990s are also in this series. Finally, a journal article and letter to the
editor authored by Crockett in addition to a memo and court transcript are
located in this series.

Non-manuscript material:
A video about Crockett is located in the Archives' Audiovisual Department
Part I
Series I
Correspondents and "Labor Looks Ahead"
Box 1

1. Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1944
3. Correspondence, Jan.-Jun. 1945
5. Correspondence, Jul.-Dec. 1945
8. Correspondence, Jan.-Mar. 1946
Part II  
Series I  
Subject Files  
Boxes 1-4

Box 1

1-2  Administration; list of judges serving from 1919-1964, correspondence, court history, canvass of 1966 election votes, psychiatric clinic professional staff, clipping, judicial retirement system, legislation, reports, 1964-1975

3.  Administration (Budget); correspondence, budget material, 1972-1974


5.  Agenda - Bench Meetings; correspondence, memos, minutes, court schedules, monthly reports, docket status, agenda, 1974-1977

6.  Alcoholism - Chronic; article, citations, clippings, resolutions, 1962-1969

7-12.  Article VI Review Committee re:

   Organization of the Michigan Courts; reports, Michigan Court organizational chart, memos, correspondences, minutes, proposals, articles, draft senate joint resolution, 1961-1973

13-14.  Article VI Review Committee re:

   Organization of the Michigan Courts (Printed Background Material), 1961-1973

15.  Assigned Counsel Fees; memos, study, correspondences, 1970-1974

16.  Assigned Counsel - Show-ups; memos and correspondences, 1969-1974


21.  Bailiff Proposal - LEAA; correspondences, memo, funding request, financial material, 1974-1975


24.  Blind Draw Controversy; agenda, correspondence, minutes, 1971-1977


27.  Campaign of George Crockett, Jr. for Detroit Common Council, 1965

28.  Campaign Material - Candidate Registration, 1977

29.  Children's Orthogenic Center; minutes, correspondences, 1972

30.  Clerks Committee; memos, correspondences, application, 1971-1974

31.  Corrections Commission; facilities reports, etc., 1959 & 1967-1971

32.  Court Administrator; correspondences, memos, 1971-1977

33.  Court Administrator, Michigan Supreme Court; correspondences, memos, 1974-1978

34-38.  Court Reorganization; brochure, legislation, legal opinion, canvass of votes, correspondences, memos, article, clippings, budget, report, proposal, 1959-1974
1. Court Reporters; correspondences, signed oaths, resumes, memos, 1969-1977
2. Criminal Justice Institute; memos, agenda, board of director's list, correspondences, 1974-1975
4. Docket Control Directives, 1977
11. Don Boscoe Hall; correspondence, 1975-1977
14. Federal Communications Commission; correspondence, order, 1976
15. Goodman, Ernest; correspondence, 1976
17. Informers, policies regarding; memos, correspondences, 1974
18. Institute for Urban Affairs & Research (Howard University); correspondence, speech, 1974
19. Joint Center for Political Studies; Crockett article entitled, "The Discretion of Judges," correspondences, 1976-1977
22. Judges Retirement; legislation, brochures, 1974-1977
25. Judicial Assistant (Mr. Harper); correspondence, memos, 1974-1977
26. Judicial Conference of the State of Michigan; correspondence, memos, agenda, 1974
29. Jury Waiver; research notes, article, 1968-1973
31. Law Clerks/Research Assistants; correspondences, 1972-1974
32. Law Library of Recorders Court; correspondences, vitae, library inventory and budget, 1969-1975
40-41. Legal Research Memorandum and Notes; examination procedures, correspondence, memos, research notes, 1967-1974
42-43. Legislative Matters; memo, pleadings, legislation, congressional record clippings, 1973-1977
44-46. Magistrates Committee; court reorganization proposals, docket, memos, 1968-1974
47. Marriage Ceremony; memos, docket, 1975-1979
Box 3

1-4. Memorandum to the Bench; pleadings, legislation, congressional record clipping, 1973-1978

5-6. Mental incompetency, correspondence, memos, administrative orders, proposed mental health code, order, 1965-1976


10. National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice; correspondences, 1974

11. National College of State Trial Judges; correspondences, clippings, 1971-1972

12. New Detroit; correspondence, 1975

13-14. Obscenity Issues; correspondence, opinions, exhibits, pleadings, 1973

15. Obscenity Opinions; pleadings, 1967-1969


25. Organization Charts, (Recorders Court and Detroit Police), 1974


29. Penal Administration Committee; correspondence, report, 1970-1977

30. People of the State of Michigan vs. Anderson Clark; pleadings, 1969

31. People of the State of Michigan vs. Isaac Parks; pleadings, 1968

32. People of the State of Michigan vs. Joe Nathan Pierce; pleadings, 1969

33. People of the State of Michigan vs. Charles Robinson; pleadings, 1969

34-35. People of the State of Michigan vs. Lloyd Tyler; pleadings, correspondences, case law, editorial, clipping, memorandum of law, 1969-1970

36. Pleas (Genesee County Case); pleadings, legal research, 1971-1973


43. Probation Service Project; correspondence, organizational chart, report, proposal, presentation, 1971-1974

44. Release on Recognizance; correspondence, survey, 1974

45-46. Reorganization of Wayne County Courts; pleadings, correspondence, court reorganization plan, 1973-1978
1. Resource Center for Correctional Law & Legal Services; proposals, articles, agenda, brochure, reports, 1971-1972
4-6. Riot Matters; governor proclamation, executive order, minutes, memo, statistical data, agenda, clipping, correspondences, executive order, cases, legislation, training and informational bulletin, and Crockett article entitled, "Recorders Court and the 1967 Civil Disturbance, 1967-1968 & n.d.
9. Rules, Correspondence; memos, correspondence, proposed recorders court amendment, 1971-1974
12. Theopus, Terrell, In the Matter of (The Yankee Store Incident); affidavit, court proceedings, 1969
13. Trial Notes; notes, pleading, 1964-1967
15. Visiting Judges; memo, correspondence, 1972-1974
16. Wayne County Jail Population; correspondence, memos, daily population report re: Wayne County Jail, 1972-1974
17. Wayne County Sheriff (William Lucas); correspondence, 1974
18. Wayne State University; correspondence, 1975-1976
19. Wayne State University (Cleo Program); correspondence, 1970
20. Wilmington 10; clipping, correspondence, 1976
Part II
Series II
Correspondence with Other Judges
Box 4

Box 4

22. Borman, Susan D.; agenda, memos and correspondences, 1974-1978
23. Boyle, Patricia J.; memos, 1977
24. Colombo, Robert J.; memos, 1974-1975
25. Connor, Michael; memos and correspondences, 1974-1976
26. Crockett, George W., Jr. (as Presiding Judge); correspondence, reports, docket schedule, 1974
27. Davenport, Elvin L.; memo, 1974-1975
29. Evans, Robert L.; memo, grant application, 1974
30. Gardner, Samuel C; memo, correspondence, 1975-1978
32. Hathaway, James A.; memos and correspondences, 1974-1977
33. Heading, Henry; memo, 1974
34. Jobe, Judge; memo, 1978
35. Laster, Clarence; memo, correspondence, notice, 1974-1977
36. Leonard, Donald S.; memos and correspondences, 1975-1976
37. Leskinski, T. John; memo, notice, resolution, 1977
38. Maher, Joseph E.; memos and correspondences, 1974
39. O'Brien, John P.; correspondence, 1974
40. Olsen, Samuel H.; correspondences, 1974
41. Poindexter, Thomas L.; memo, 1974
42. Ravitz, Justin C; memos and correspondences, 1973-1977
43. Roberson, Dalton; memos and correspondences, 1974-1975
Part II
Series III
General Correspondence
Box 4

Box 4

44. Significant Correspondence; clipping, correspondences, 1971-1975
45. Unofficial Correspondence; memos and correspondences, 1974

Official Correspondence A-Z
46. A; correspondences, 1974-1975
47. B; correspondences, 1973-1978
48. C; correspondences, 1973-1978
49. D; correspondences and memos, 1970-1978
50. E; correspondences and pleadings, 1971-1978
51. F; memos and correspondences, 1973-1978
52. G; correspondences, 1973-1978
53. H; memos and correspondences, 1973-1978
54. J; correspondences, 1974-1978
55. K; correspondences, 1971-1978
56. L; memos and correspondences, 1974-1978
57. M; memos and correspondences, 1973-1978
58. N; correspondences, 1971-1978
59. O; correspondences, 1975-1977
60. P; correspondences, memos, affidavit, 1975-1978
61. R; correspondences, 1973-1978
62. S; correspondences, 1973-1978
63. T; correspondences, 1973-1978
64. V; correspondences, 1974-1977
65. W; correspondences, 1974-1978
66. XYZ; correspondences, 1974-1977

Part II
Series IV
Clippings and Testimonials, etc.
Box 5

Box 5

5. Miscellaneous; Crockett letter to the editor, transcript of proceedings,
   Crockett article from Judicature and packet of material titled, 'The Crockett File' primarily comprised of clippings documenting Crockett's congressional history, 1952-1987
Ager, William R, 2:30,3:9,3:11,4:46
Archer, Dennis 4:46
Baum, Victor, J., 4:47
Bennett, Douglas P., 2:21
Benson, James, 2:25
Beer, William J., 4:47
Boos, William A. 1:35
Borchard, Fred J., 3:9
Borman, Susan 1:17,4:22
Boyle, Patricia J., 4:23
Brennan, Vincent, 1:19,3:38
Brown, Basil 2:43,4:47
Brown, William B., 4:47
Bushnell, George E., 2:21,3:12,3:20
Cahalan, William L., 4:26,4:36,4:44,4:48,4:50
Canham, James, 2:43
Cavanagh, Jerome P., 3:38
Collins, Barbara-Rose, 2:43
Colombo, Robert J., 1:17,2:43,2:45,3:38,4:24
Connor, Michael J., 2:32,4:8–9,4:25,4:48
Court Reorganization, 1:7–14,1:34–38,2:20–21,2:43–46,3:9,3:45–46
Cushingberry, George 3:46
Cushman, Edward L., 4:48
Cynar, Walter P., 3:29
Danhof, Robert J., 1:9
Davenport, Elvin L., 4:27
Del Rio, James 1:2,2:42,4:28
DeMascio, Robert, 1:15,1:19,1:35,3:39,4:10,4:48
Diggs, Charles C, 2:20
Douglas, Nils R., 2:21
Edwards, George 3:37,4:50
Evans, Robert L., 1:17,1:21,3:3,3:41,4:9,4:29,4:50
Farris, Jerome 4:51
Fischer, Areatha Bailey, 4:51
Ford, Gerald, 2:21
Ford, Geraldine Bledsoe, 1:19,4:23,4:37,4:51
Franck, Michael, 2:23,4:51
Gardner, Samuel C, 2:29,2:43,3:4,4:26,4:30,4:37
Gary, Clifford B., 2:13
Gillis, Joseph A., 2:31,2:43,4:9,4:31
Girardin, Ray 3:37–38
Goodman, Ernest, 2:15,4:44,4:52
Hague, William C. 1:35
Hathaway, James A., 4:32
Heading, Henry, 4:33
Henderson, Erma 2:27,3:17,3:46,4:53
Hobson, Donald, 1:38
Holbrook, Donald B., 1:9
Holmes, Davis S., 3:20
Hood, Morris 2:43,3:18–19
Hood, Raymond, 4:53
Howard, Joseph C, 2:21
Jackson, Harold B., 2:20
Jefferson, Andrew L., 2:20
Jobe, Judge, 4:34
Johnston, J. Bennett, 2:21
Kelly, Frank 1:1
Kornegay, Francis A., 3:17
Laster, Clarence, 4:35
Legel, Jack, 2:43
Levin, Charles L., 4:56
Lowe, Mary Johnson, 4:56
Legel, Jack 2:43
Leskinksi, T. John, 4:37
Littlejohn, Edward, 3:11
Long, Russell, 2:20
Lucas, William 4:17
McMahon, Brian J., 2:27
Mahaffey, Maryann 3:46
Mäher, Joseph E., 4:38
Mathias, Charles, 2:20–21
Milliken, William G., 2:20–21,4:57
Montante, James, 3:9
Moore, Arthur E., 2:23
Mori al, Ernest N., 4:57
Murphy, John 2:43,3:1,3:17,3:40,4:57
Nichols, John, 4:58
Nix, Robert N.C., 4:44
O'Brien, John P., 4:39
One-Man Grand Jury, 3:16–22
Parsell, Carl, 3:39
Penn, William H., 4:44
Peterson, William R., 3:29
Poindexter, Thomas L, 1:21,3:17,4:41
Rangel, Charles, 2:20
Ravitz, Justin C, 1:2,2:43–44,3:1,4:42
Ravitz, Mel, 4:61
Roberson, Dalton A., 4:43
Robinson, Richard, 3:29
Rosenbaum, Paul A., 3:45, 4:42, 4:61
Sarabaines, Paul, 2:21
Silver, Paul 1:35, 4:26
Silverman, Lawrence D. 4:62
Sullivan, Joseph 1:34, 4:62
Tannian, Philip G., 1:16, 4:26, 4:63
Vaughn, Jackie III, 1:37, 2:43, 4:64
Williams, G. Mennen 2:20, 4:26
Weber, William V., 1:9
Young, Coleman 3:19, 4:66
Young, Joseph 2:43