

THE ERNEST GOODMAN COLLECTION

Papers, 1952-1977
(Predominantly, 1952-1972)

10 linear feet

Accession Number 1152
L. C. Number MS

The papers of Ernest Goodman were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban affairs in November of 1983 by Mr. Goodman and were opened for research in May of 1985.

Ernest Goodman was born in Hemlock, Michigan on August 21, 1906. Mr. Goodman graduated from Wayne State College in 1928 with a L.L.B., and was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan that same year. During the decade of the 1930s, he was active in many labor cases, and became an associate of Maurice Sugar, general counsel of the UAW, in 1939. In 1950 Ernest Goodman and George Crockett, Jr. formed one of the first interracial law firms; Goodman, Crockett, Eden and Robb, specifically to handle civil rights, labor, and constitutional law cases.

Mr. Goodman is a member of the Detroit Bar Association and the National Lawyers Guild. A founding member of the Lawyers Guild, Mr. Goodman served as it's president from 1963 to 1966.

The papers of Mr. Goodman reflect his activities as counsel during three of his most important cases concerning civil rights and constitutional law: The Michigan Smith Act trial, the Sherrill School desegregation case, and the Black Panther trial.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Black Panther Party	Constitutional Law
Civil Rights	Detroit Public Schools Desegregation
Communist Party	Smith Act

Among the important correspondents are:

Bushell, George	Johnson, David
Crockett, George	Kaess, Fred W.
Garner, Thelma	Picard, Frank A.
Hall, Elliot S.	Wellman, Saul

Separate Indexes to subjects and correspondents for each series will be on found page 12.

Contents

19 manuscript boxes

Series I, The Smith Act Trial, 1952-1958, Boxes 1-5:

All material is concerned with Mr. Goodman's activities as defense counsel during the trial of six Michigan residents charged with conspiracy to teach and advocate violent overthrow of the government or violation of the Smith Act.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1952-1958, Boxes 1-3,
Court records for the trial, the appeal, the reconsideration,
and the final dismissal. Subseries B:

Research Materials, 1952-1958, Box 3-4,
Research sources, notes, and memorandums for the preparation
and conduct of the defense.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1953-1958, Box 5,
Correspondence relating to the Smith Act trial

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1952-1956, Box 5,
Leaflets, newsclippings, newsletters, pamphlets and other
publications relating to the trial and the Smith Act.

Series II, The Sherrill School Case, 1962-1968, Boxes 5-12:

All material is concerned with Mr. Goodman's activities as counsel for the the Sherrill School Parent's Committee during their civil action which charged the Detroit Board of Education with de facto segregation.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1962-1968, Boxes 5-9,
Court records and related documents for the pre-trial, the
Amicus Curiae, and the dismissal.

Subseries B: Research, 1962-1970, Boxes 9-11,
Research sources, notes, and related materials for the
preparation and conduct of the pre-trial.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1961-1968, Box 11,
Correspondence relating to the Sherrill School case

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1962-1968, Boxes 11-12,
Leaflets, newsletters, pamphlets, and other publications
relating to the Sherrill School case.

Series III, The Black Panther Trial, 1970-1977, Boxes 12-19:

All material is concerned with Mr. Goodman's activities as defense counsel for fifteen members of the Black Panther Party charged with murder and conspiracy to murder a Detroit Police officer.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1970-1972, Boxes 12-18,

Court records and related documents for the trial and appeals.

Subseries B: Research, 1970-1972, Boxes 18-19,

Research sources, memorandums, notes, and other material for the preparation and the conduct of the defense.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1970-1977, Box 19,

Correspondence relating to the Black Panther Trial.

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1970-1971, Box 19,

Leaflets, newsclippings, pamphlets, and publications, relating to the trial and desegregation.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 24 photographs relating to the Black Panther trial have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection. Books, pamphlets, and publications received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.

Series I.
Michigan Smith Act Trial, 1952-58
Boxes 1-5

Files relating to Goodman's activities as defense counsel for six Michigan residents charged with conspiracy to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the government thereby violating the Smith Act. The trial began with indictments on September 22, 1952 and ended with a dismissal on September 16, 1958.

This series is divided into the following four subseries:

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1952-1958, Boxes 1-3

Court records for the trial, appeal, reconsideration, and dismissal. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries B: Research Materials, 1952-58, Box 3-4

Research sources, memorandums, and notes for the preparation and the conduct of the defense. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1953-58, Box 5

Correspondence relating to the trial. There is also a large amount of Mr. George Crockett's correspondence. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1952-56, Box 5

Leaflets, newsclippings, newsletters, pamphlets, and other publications relating to the trial. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1952-58

Box 1

1. Trial Records; Criminal docket, Sep 1952 - May 1954
2. Trial Records; Complaint and warrant, 17 Sep 1952
3. Trial Records; Bail, 18-22 Sep 1952
4. Trial Records; Index to pleadings
5. Trial Records; Grand Jury indictment, 17 Sep 1952
6. Trial Records; Testimony for defense, 2 Oct 1952
7. Trial Records; Motion, bill of particulars, 24 Oct 1952
8. Trial Records; Memorandum, bill of particulars, 5 Dec 1952
9. Trial Records; Motions, dismissal and continuance, 22 Sep 1952
- 10-11. Trial Records; Affidavits, support of dismissal, 22-24 Sep 1953
12. Trial Records; Memorandum, opposition to dismissal, Sep 1953
13. Trial Records; Memorandum, support of dismissal, 22 Sep 1953
14. Trial Records; Forma Pauperis, Sep 1953

Box 1 cont.

15. Trial Records; Pre-trial motions and orders, Sep-Oct 1953
16. Trial Records; Voir Dire, 21 Oct 1953
17. Trial Records; Goodman's opening statement
18. Trial Records; Motion for acquittal, 28 Dec 1953
19. Trial Records; Proof of un-constitutionality, 27 Jan 1954
20. Trial Records; Testimony, Nat Ganley, 8 Feb 1954
- 21-24. Trial Records; Testimony, Harold Woertink, 8 Feb 1954
25. Trial Records; Testimony, Gordon Walker, 8 Feb 1954
25. Trial Records; Defendants instructions, 8 Feb 1954
26. Trial Records; Affidavit, Goodman, 8 Feb 1954
28. Trial Records; Testimony, Ernest Goodman, 9 Feb 1954
- 29-30. Trial Records; Charge of the court, Feb 1954
31. Trial Records; Governments charges, n.d.

Box 2.

- 1-2. Trial Records; Goodman's final argument, [c. 18 Feb 1954]
3. Trial Records; Motion for acquittal, 18 Feb 1954
4. Trial Records; misc., n.d.
5. Trial Records; Exhibits
6. Trial Records; Appeal notices, 19 Feb 1954
7. Trial Records-Appeal; Bail, Mar 1954
8. Trial Records-Appeal; Reduction of bail, 18 Mar 1954
9. Trial Records-Appeal; Appellants Brief (bound volume)
- 10-11. Trial Records-Appeal; Appellants Appendix
- 12-13. Trial Records-Appeal; Pleadings, Apr-Sep 1954, Jan 1955
14. Trial Records-Appeal; Briefs, Mar 1955
15. Trial Records-Appeal; Pleadings, Mar 1955
16. Trial Records-Appeal; Decision, 18 Nov 1955
17. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Petition, rehearing,
Nov-Dec 1955
18. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Forma Pauperis, 27 Jan 1956
19. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Petition, certiorari, 1956
20. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Pleadings, Jun-Nov 1957

Box 3

- 1-2. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Government Memorandum, n.d.
3. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Appellants brief, n.d.
- 4-9. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Testimony against defendants
10. Trial Records-Reconsideration; Decision and dismissal

Subseries B: Research Materials, 1952-58

Box 3

11. Research Materials; Bail
12. Research Materials; Communist publications
13. Research Materials; Defendant, Dennis
14. Research Materials; Defendant, Ganley
- 15-16. Research Materials; Defendant, Schatz
17. Research Materials; Wellman, Winter

Box 3 cont.

18. Research Materials; Detroit media, Communism, 1953
- 19-27. Research Materials; Goodman's memorandums, 1952-57
28. Research Materials; Pennsylvania Smith Act Trial, 17 Jul 1952
29. Research Materials; Trial notes, 17 Feb 1955

Box 4

1. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Charles Baxter
2. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Louis Budenz
3. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Paul Crouch
4. Research Materials; FBI Informer, William G. Cummings
5. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Matthew Cvetic
6. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Andrew Dmytryshyn
7. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Benjamin Gitlow
8. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Manning Johnson
- 9-14. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Joseph Zack Kornfeder
15. Research Materials; FBI Informer, John Lautner
- 16-17. Research Materials; FBI Informer, William O. Nowell
18. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Richard F. O'Hair
19. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Herbert A. Philbrick
20. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Milton Santwire,
Stephan Schemaske
21. Research Materials; FBI Informer, Thaddeus Zygmunt
- 22-24. Research Materials; FBI Informers, A-W

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1953-58

Box 5

- 1-9. Correspondence; 1953 - 1958

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1953-56

Box 5

10. Published Materials; Press releases, Nov 1953 - Feb 1954
11. Published Materials; Articles, 1954-55
12. Published Materials; Committees, leaflets, 1953-56
13. Published Materials; Fact sheet, [c. Oct 1953]

Series II
The Sherrill School Case, 1962-1968
Boxes 5-12

Files relating to Mr. Goodman's activities as counsel for the Sherrill School Parent's Committee, during their civil action which charged the Detroit School Board with de facto segregation. The case began on January 22, 1962, and was dismissed on May 3, 1968 after it was determined that the school board had taken significant steps towards implementing a desegregation program.

This series is divided into the following four subseries:

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1962-68, Boxes 5-9

Court records and related documents for the pre-trial, the Amicus Curiae, and the final dismissal. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries B; Research, 1962-70, Box 9-11

Research sources, notes and related materials for the preparation and the conduct of the pre-trial. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1961-68, Box 11

Correspondence relating to the Sherrill School case. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1962-68, Boxes 11-12

Leaflets, newsclippings, pamphlets, and other publications relating to the Sherrill School case. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1962-68

Box 5 .

14. Trial Records; Pre-trial, Jan-Aug 1962
15. Trial Records; School boundaries, 1959-60 (bound volumes)

Box 6

- 1-2. Trial Records; School boundaries, 1960- 62 (bound volumes)
3. Trial Records; Addendum to guide of school boundaries, Feb
Feb 1961
- 4-6. Trial Records; Detroit Schools, 1949-55 (bound volumes)

Box 7

- 1-3. Trial Records; Detroit Schools, 1955-64 (bound volumes)
4. Trial Records; Defendants answer, 14 Aug 1962
- 5-6. Trial Records; Pre-trial, 14-Aug - Jul 1963
7. Trial Records; Detroit School Census, 1939-40, 1949-50, 1959-60
- 8-10. Trial Records; School census, under five years of age, 1943-62
- 11-13. Trial Records; School census, ages five to nineteen, 1940-62
- 14-17. Trial Records; Detroit School Busing, 1943-62

Box 8

1. Trial Records; Amicus Curiae, Aug 1963-Jan 1964
2. Trial Records; DPS Administrative information, 1961-63
- 3-4. Trial Records; Detroit Schools, racial count, 1961-63
- 5-7. Trial Records; Citizens Advisory Committee, 1962 (bound volumes)
8. Trial Records; School building program, Feb 1963
9. Trial Records; Amicus Curiae report, rough drafts, Feb-Mar 1964
10. Trial Records; Amicus Curiae report, 1 May 1964
11. Trial Records; Proceedings, 5 May - 13 Jul 1964
12. Trial Records; Deposition of Paul Rankin, 17 Jul 1964
13. Trial Records; Deposition of Jessie Kennedy, 22 Jul 1964
- 14-15. Trial Records; Deposition of Thomas Monroe, 22 Jul 1964
16. Trial Records; Deposition of Robert Anderson, 24 Jul 1964

Box 9

1. Trial Records; Integrated School Program, Jul-Oct 1964
2. Trial Records; Status information, Feb 1965
3. Trial Records; Deposition of Dr. S. M. Brownell, 28 Apr 1965
4. Trial Records; Apr 1965
5. Trial Records; Motion for summary judgement, 21 Jun 1967
6. Trial Records; Support for summary judgement, 25 Aug 1967
7. Trial Records; Dismissal, 3 May 1968
8. Trial Records; Report, Community Relations Committee, Aug 1963, Jul 1964
9. Trial Records; Exhibit 1, Racial Distribution, Nov 1964
10. Trial Records; Exhibit 2, Racial Distribution, Oct 1964
11. Trial Records; Exhibits 3-7, DPS administrative information
12. Trial Records; Exhibit B, Progress report
13. Trial Records; Exhibits B-3, B-4, apprentice program [Apr 1964]
- 14-15. Trial Records; Exhibit C, young adolescents, Jun 1959
- 16-17. Trial Records; Racial Distributions, Dec 1965, Oct 1966

Subseries B: Research, 1963-70,

18. Research; Ad Hoc committees, Citizens Advisory
19. Research; Ad Hoc committees, Equal Education Opportunity
20. Research; Ad Hoc committees, Save Our Schools
21. Research; Ad Hoc committees, United Citizens of S.W. Detroit
22. Research; Bibliographies, desegregation
- 23-24. Research; Children's literature, 1965-66

Box 10

- 1-6. Research; Detroit School Board, documents, 1961-65
7. Research; Detroit Schools, District Census, 1951-1962
8. Research; Detroit Schools, evaluation procedure, 1962-65
9. Research; Detroit Schools, human relations clubs, Sep 1965
10. Research; Detroit Schools, Human Relations Workshop, Aug 1960
11. Research; Detroit Schools, Report on Doty school, 1947-1957
12. Research; Detroit Schools, Southwest District report, Dec 1961
13. Research; Detroit schools, West District report, 1961
- 14-22. Research; Legal notes
23. Research; Memos to file
24. Research; Reports on minorities, segregation
25. Research; Speeches on segregation, 1964, 1966

Box 11

- 1-5. Research; Trial notes
6. Research; Wayne State University, consultants, Aug 1966
- 7-9. Research; Desegregation Advisory Project

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1961-1968

Box 11

- 10-22. Correspondence; 1961-1968

Subseries D: Published Material, 1962-68

Box 11

23. Published Materials; Articles, civil rights, segregation, 1960s
24. Published Materials; Children's literature, n. d.

Box 12

1. Published Materials; Congressional Record, 21 Jul 1967
- 2-3. Published Materials; Education materials, Detroit Schools
4. Published Materials; Misc., Oct 1961, [c. 1961]
5. Published Materials; Newspaper clippings [c. 1966-67]
6. Published Materials; Segregation and integration in the North, Nov 1963

Series III
The Black Panther Trial
Boxes 12-19

Files relating to Goodman's activities as defense counsel for fifteen Black Panther Party members charged with murder and conspiracy to murder a Detroit Police officer. The trial began with grand jury indictments on November 4, 1970 and ended on June 31, 1971 with three defendants convicted of felonious assault and all other defendants acquitted.

This series is divided into the following four subseries:

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1970-72, Boxes 12-18

Court records for the trial and appeals. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries B: Research, 1970-72, Boxes 18-19

Research sources, notes, and memorandums for the preparation and the conduct of the defense during the trial. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1970-77, Box 19

Correspondence relating to the Black Panther Trial. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1970-71, Box 19

Leaflets, newsclippings, pamphlets, and other publications concerning the Trial. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1970-72

Box 12

7. Trial Records; Warrants, police lab reports, Oct 1970
8. Trial Records; Grand Jury, Nov 1970
- 9-13. Trial Records; Police reports, 24-30 Oct 1970
- 14-24. Trial Records; Police testimony, Nov 1970
- 25-27. Trial Records; Police testimony, n.d.
28. Trial Records; Police witness list, 28 Dec 1970
29. Trial Records; Proceedings, 4 Dec 1970

Box 13

- 1-13. Trial Records; Proceedings, Feb 1971-May 1971
- 14-17. Trial Records; Voir Dire, n.d.
- 18-21. Trial Records; Proceedings, 4-11 May 1971

Box 14

1-13. Trial Records; Proceedings, 12-26 May 1971

Box 15

1-8. Trial Records; Proceedings, 27-May 1971- 7 Jun 1971

Box 16

1-9. Trial Records; Proceedings, 8-22 Jun 1971

Box 17

1-3. Trial Records; Proceedings, 25-30 Jun 1971

4. Trial Records; Master index of exhibits

5-9. Trial Records; Exhibits

10-14.

Trial Records; Defense, instructions to jury

15. Trial Records; Prosecution, instructions to jury

16. Trial Records; Defense, final argument [c. 24 Jun 1971]

17. Trial Records; Appeal of Pat Duncan, Jun-Aug 1971

18. Trial Records; Appeal briefs, appendix

19. Trial Records; Appeal, proceedings [1972]

Box 18

1. Trial Records; Appeal of Jerome Lee, Aug-Nov 1971

2. Trial Records; Appeal of June Williams, grand jury, Apr 1971

Subseries B: Research, 1970-72

Box 18

3. Research; Admissions, Aiding and Abetting

4-5. Research; Bail

6. Research; Bill of Particulars

7. Research; Black Panther newspapers

8. Research; Closing argument

9. Research; Committee to Defend the Detroit 15, 1971

10. Research; Confession of co-defendant

11. Research; Confrontation, Right of

12. Research; Consolidation

13. Research; Conspiracy

14. Research; Conspiracy, historical

15. Research; Corroboration

16. Research; Court of Appeals, Apr 1971

17. Research; Declarations against interest

18. Research; Detroit Police and Black Panthers

19. Research; Directed verdict

20. Research; Discovery motion

21. Research; Dismissal

Box 18 cont.

22. Research; Fifth Amendment
23. Research; Grand juries
24. Research; Handwriting immunity
25. Research; Impeachment

Box 19

1. Research; Jury instructions
2. Research; Jurors background
- 3-11. Research; Law

12. Research; Law, juvenile, June Williams a.k.a. Kim Gardner
13. Research; Lesser offenses
14. Research; Misc.
- 15-18. Note*
- 19-21. Research; Trial notes, Goodman's
22. Research; Trial notes, J. Taft's
23. Research; Voir Dire

Subseries C: Correspondence, 1970-1977

- 24-29. Correspondence; Oct 1970- 1977

Subseries D: Published Materials, 1970-71

30. Published Materials; Leaflets, 1970-71
31. Published Materials; Newsclippings, 1970-71
32. Published Materials; Tuebor, Detroit Police publication, 1970

* Folders Removed From Collection by E. Goodman

Index to Subjects and Correspondence
(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

Series I

Allen, William, 5:10-13	*Picard, Frank A., 5:1,4,5,9,
Communist Party: Publications, 3:12; Structure, 3:16,18	Picard, Frank A., 5:10
*Crockett, George, 5:5,7	Schatz, Phillip, 3:15-16, 5:10-13
Crockett, George, 2:7, 5:12	Smith Act: Fact sheet, 5:12; Govern- ment witness, 5:10, informers, 5:11; Labor, 5:10-13, supporting committees, 5:12
Dennis, Thomas, 3:13, 5:10-13	*Stone, I.F., 5:7
*Donner, Frank, 5:2,7	Yates Decision, 2:21
Ford Motor Co., spies, 5:12	*Wellman, Saul, 5:5,7
*Ganley, Nat, 5:5	Wellman, Saul, 3:4,17, 5:10-13
Ganley, Nat, 1:21, 3:5,14, 5:10-13	Winter, Helen, 3:17, 5:10-13
*Kaess, Fred W., 5:1	
Kaess, Fred W., 5:10	

Index to Subjects and Correspondence
(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

Series II

Ad Hoc Committees, 9:18-21	Detroit Public Schools: Admini- strative information, 8:2, 9:11-14; Board of Education, 10:1-6, 11:18; census, 7:7-17; educational, 12:1-3, evaluation, 10:8; human relations, 10:9-10; Program for an Integrated School System, 9:1
Amicus Curiae: Formation, 8:1; Report, 8:9-10	*Garner, Thelma, 11:10-12,16
Brownell, Dr. S.M., 9:3	*Kaess, Fred W., 11:15-17
*Bushell, George, 9:1, 11:11-22	NAACP, 11:10-11
Bushell, George, 7:5	Rankin, Paul, 8:12
Children's literature, 9:23-24, 11:24	Segregation, 11:23, 12:5-6
Citizens Advisory Committee, 8:5-7, 9:18, 11:12	
*Crockett, George, 11:10-16, 19:19	
Crockett, George, 6:5	
Desegregation, 4:6, 9:22, 10:6, 12:1	

Index to Subjects and Correspondence
(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

Series III

*American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 19:28	*Gibbs, Walter, 19:24
ACLU, 19:30	Gibbs, Walter, 12:29
Appeals, 19:27	Grand Jury: 12:8; Power of law, 18:27, 19:25, 27
Black Panthers: Newspapers, 18:7, 19:31	*Hall, Elliot S., 19:24, 28
Cleaver, Eldridge, 17:5	Hall, Elliot S., 12:29, 13:3, 19:31
Committee to Defend the Detroit 15, 18:10, 19:26, 30	*Johnson, David, 19:27-28
Defendants: 18:19-21, Defense Strategy, 19:24, 28	Juvenile Law, 19:12, 26
*Detroit Free Press, 19:26	Lee, Jerome, 18:1
Detroit Police and the Black Panthers, 18:22	National Committee to Combat Fascism: 17:5-8, 18:7; breakfast for children, 17:6, 19:30-31
Duncan, Pat: Appeal, 17:17-19	Newton, Huey, Essays, 17:5
	"Urban Guerilla", 17:9
	* Williams, June, 19:26
	Williams, June 18:2, 19:12

Ernest Goodman Papers
Part II
40.5 linear feet
1929-1997 (bulk 1940-1975)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Robbie Terman, 2010.

Accession Number: 1152

Creator: Ernest Goodman

Acquisition: After completion of part one of the Ernest Goodman papers in 1985, additional materials were donated by Mr. Goodman in 1992 and 1994. Supplementary materials were donated after Mr. Goodman's death by his son William in 1998. Materials donated subsequent to part one were merged to create part two of the Ernest Goodman collection, itself a part of the Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History.

Language: Materials in English and Spanish.

Access: Papers are open for research.

Use: **Researchers must sign a *Restricted Use Statement*, governing Series V, Subseries A.** For further details, refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Notes: Citation style: "Ernest Goodman Papers, Part II, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related Material: Photographs and audio/video tapes were transferred to the Reuther's Audiovisual Department.

History

Ernest Goodman was born in Hemlock, Michigan on August 21, 1906. In 1928, he graduated from the first law school class at Wayne State University. Upon graduation and passing the bar, Goodman opened a law practice in Detroit with a classmate. To make ends meet, he began taking collection cases on behalf of local merchants. As the city sank into poverty due to the depression, Goodman had an epiphany that would become a guiding force in his career and his life: he would "...use the law as an instrument to obtain justice for the common people."¹ This transformation was born both by his own professional frustration, and by his introduction to labor lawyer, Maurice Sugar.

Goodman spent the next twelve years, until 1947, deeply involved with the labor movement. He worked alongside Sugar, as Associate General Counsel of the United Auto Workers, fighting in some of Michigan's most bitter union organizing struggles.

In 1937 another event occurred that would influence Goodman's personal and professional life: he became executive secretary of the newly formed Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). This association opened a new world of diversity for Goodman and would be a lifelong influence on Goodman's career. Many of his cases would come from the NLG; others would be tried with the same principles that formed its basis.

In 1950, Goodman joined with George Crockett, Mort Eden, and Dean Robb to form the first (known) interracial law partnership. Goodman continued his dedication to serve the common man by taking unpopular clients, including Communists, Black Panthers, prison inmates, and African Americans during the civil rights movement.

Ernest Goodman died in 1997 at the age of 90. He was survived by his wife of 65 years, Freda, and his sons, Richard and William.

Scope and Content

Part two of Mr. Goodman's papers reflect his activities as council in controversial cases, particularly first amendment and civil rights cases, court martials, deportation and denaturalization, and the 1971 Attica prison uprising. His personal and professional associations, which influenced a career spent seeking social justice, are included in Series VI. Series VII: Subject Files reflect the people, places, and events that not only influenced Goodman, but also prompted him to seek change in our society.

Important Subjects:

Civil Rights – America – Cases
Communist Party of America
Constitutional Law
Deportation – United States
McCarthyism – 1950-1960

¹ 88:7 Commencement Address; Wayne State University Law School, May 1993

Prison Riots – New York (State) – Attica
Trials (Military Offenses)
Trials (Obscenity)

Important Names:

Crockett, George
Eden, Mort
Gleicher, Morris
Nowak, Stanley
Robb, Dean
Stroble, Bernard “Shango”
Sugar, Maurice
Wellman, Saul
Wolfgang, Myra
Young, Coleman A.

Series IV: Bernard “Shango” Stroble and the Attica Uprising

Bernard “Shango” Stroble fled to New York in 1966 to avoid charges of robbery/murder and the shooting of policemen in Michigan. While in New York City, he was arrested on unrelated charges of murder, kidnapping, robbery, and arson, and sent to Attica prison in 1968. On September 9, 1971, after demands for better living conditions were not met, prisoners took over Yard D of Attica for four days. The uprising ended on September 13, 1971, when New York governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered the prison to be taken back by force, causing the deaths of 43 people, including nine hostages. 62 prisoners were indicted for the incident, including Shango on the charges of felony murder in the deaths of Kenneth Hess and Barry Schwartz. Shango was acquitted of these charges on June 26, 1975.

The bulk of this series consists of court documents relating to the trial of Shango for the murders of Hess and Schwartz. After the Attica trial, Mr. Goodman represented Shango in appealing his sentence connected to the arrests in Michigan, which led to Shango’s release in 1979. Papers relating to the 1965 robbery/murder and 1966 policemen shooting are also included, as well as documents relating to Shango’s appeal.

Subseries A: Trial Records, 1965-1979

Court records for the Attica trial, as well as documents relating to Shango’s trial in Michigan in 1967 and the appeal that led to his release in 1979.

Subseries B: Correspondence, 1968-1979

Correspondence relating to all trials involving Shango, either as defendant or petitioner.

Subseries C: Research, 1971-1975

Research sources, notes and memorandums for the preparation of trial.

Subseries D: Publicity, 1966-1980,

Leaflets, newspaper clippings, articles, and other publications concerning Shango and the Attica Uprising. Also included are drafts and documents relating to a post-trial book compiled by Ernest Goodman.

Series V: Litigation

This series is comprised of other cases in which Goodman served as council or participated.

Subseries A: Immigration – Denaturalization/Deportation Cases, 1949-1975

This subseries consists of immigration cases as represented by Mr. Goodman and/or the firm of Goodman, Crockett, Eden, & Robb. In a majority of the cases, the client was targeted for denaturalization/deportation due to the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 (also known as the Walter-McCarran Immigration Law), which allowed the government to deport immigrants and naturalized citizens engaged in “subversive activities.” Those targeted under this act were overwhelmingly accused of being involved with the Communist party at the time of their naturalization.

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.

Subseries B: Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers (CASL), 1962-1966

Started by the National Lawyers Guild, under the direction of Goodman and partner George Crockett, the Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers (later called Committee for Legal Assistance in the South) sent attorneys to the Southern states to represent civil rights activists.

Subseries C: General Litigation, 1941-1987

Various cases represented or assisted by Goodman.

Series VI: Professional and Personal Associations

This series consists of materials relating to the organizations that influenced Goodman’s professional and personal life.

Subseries A: National Lawyers Guild, 1937-1994

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) originated in 1936, when a group of lawyers met in New York to discuss the formation of an integrated liberal and progressive bar association. A call was issued to American lawyers to form chapters of the guild nationwide, and in 1937, the founding convention commenced in Washington, DC. The NLG often takes unpopular cases in the pursuit of social and economic justice, operating on the belief that human rights are more sacred than property rights. Mr. Goodman actively participated in the NLG and served as president from 1963 to 1966. This subseries is comprised of records from his involvement in the NLG, including conventions, committees, and the Detroit chapter of the NLG. Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers cases (which were under the auspices of the NLG) can be found in Series V: Subseries B.

Subseries B: American Association of Jurists, 1970-1989

In 1970, Ernest Goodman initiated the organization of an Inter-American conference of lawyers to discuss human rights and social change. After four years of correspondence and planning, the first conference took place in Lima, Peru on June 10, 1974. During the second Inter-American conference in 1975, the decision was made to set up a new international jurists' association to be called American Association of Jurists (AAJ). The guiding principles of the AAJ would be the defense and promotion of human rights and solidarity with jurists prosecuted due to their supporting these principles.

Subseries C: Bucks Dinner, 1939-1994

In 1929, labor lawyer and social justice advocate, Maurice Sugar, invited like-minded friends to join him for an evening of venison and song. He charged guests 50 cents and contributed the money to a fund for the unemployed. Thus began the Bucks Dinner. For more than fifty years, those dedicated to equality, peace, and justice, gathered annually to enjoy food, entertainment, and to raise money for the causes in which they believed. Ernest Goodman took an active role in the Bucks Dinner, acting as "Head Hunter" and taking part in the committee to distribute funds raised.

Series VII: Subject Files, 1932-1995

This series is comprised of materials on people, places and events that influenced Goodman's belief system and were driving forces in both his personal and professional life.

Arrangement:

Part two is arranged in four series – Series IV (Boxes 20-45), Series V (Boxes 45-72), Series VI (Boxes 72-86), and Series VII (Boxes 86-100). Folders are arranged alphabetically, unless otherwise noted.

Series IV: Bernard “Shango” Stroble and the Attica Uprising is further divided into four subseries:

Subseries A: Trial Records (Boxes 20-41)

Subseries B: Correspondence (Box 41). Folders are arranged chronologically.

Subseries C: Research (Boxes 42-43)

Subseries D: Publicity (Boxes 44-45)

Series V: Litigation is further divided into three subseries:

Subseries A: Immigration – Denaturalization/Deportation Cases (Boxes 45-51). Folders are arranged by surname of individual, but are not listed on the guide. Contact the Reference Archivist for assistance.

Subseries B: Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers (Boxes 51-56)

Subseries C: General Litigation (Boxes 56-72)

Series VI: Professional and Personal Associations is further divided into three subseries:

Subseries A: National Lawyers Guild (Boxes 72-81)

Subseries B: American Association of Jurists (Boxes 81-83)

Subseries C: Bucks Dinner (Boxes 83-86). Folders are arranged chronologically.

Series IV

Subseries A: Trial Records

Box 20

1. Attica Brothers Legal Defense v. New York State Bar Association, Apr 1975
2. Attorney Investigator Fees and Costs, 1973-1975
3. Civil Subpoena, 9 Mar 1977
4. Complaint and Warrant, State of Michigan, 24 Dec 1965 – 10 Feb 1966
5. Depositions, 30 Mar 1977
6. Discharge of Jury Pool, Feb-Apr 1975
7. Docket Journal, City of Detroit, 1966-1967
8. Exhibits; Autopsies, Sep-Oct 1971
9. Exhibit; Drawings of Prisoner and Hostage Locations During Uprising, Sep 1971
10. Exhibit; Witness Statements, Feb-Apr 1972
11. Indictment by Grand Jury, undated
12. Jury Questions Proposed by Defendants, 15 Jul 1974
13. Jury Selection; Peremptory Challenges, Aug 1974-Apr 1975
14. Laboratory Findings, 1971, 1974
15. Opening Statement of Frank Cryan, undated
16. Petitioner’s Exhibits, 9 Mar 1977
17. Pleadings; Discovery – Logs to Witnesses that Discovered Bodies, Feb-Apr 1975

Box 21

1. Pleadings; Discovery – State of New York, Jun 1973-Jan 1975, undated
2. Pleadings; Dismissal of Indictment #5 – State of New York, Jan-Mar 1976
3. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – City of Detroit, State of Michigan, Jul 1968-Jul 1969
4. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – Court of Appeals for the State of Michigan, Jul 1969-Feb 1971
5. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – Supreme Court of Michigan, Mar-May 1971
6. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – Supreme Court of New York, Nov 1973-Apr 1975
7. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – United States Court of Appeals for the 6th District, Nov 1978-Jan 1979
8. Pleadings; Judgments and Orders – United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, Feb 1976-Apr 1977, undated
9. Pleadings; Michigan Supreme Court, 1966-1975
10. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – City of Detroit, State of Michigan, Jan 1967-Sep 1969

Box 22

1. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – Court of Appeals, State of Michigan, Feb 1969-Oct 1974
2. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – State of New York, 1973
3. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – State of New York, 1974
4. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – State of New York, 1975
5. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – Supreme Court of the United States, Oct 1978

Box 23

1. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, Jul 1976- Jan 1979
2. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – United States District Court, Eastern Division of Michigan, Southern Division, Oct 1968-Sep 1977
3. Pleadings; Motions and Briefs – United States District Court, Western Division of New York, Jun 1969-Apr 1975
4. Pleadings; Sandoval Hearing, Mar-May 1975
5. Proceedings, 16 Jul 1968
6. Proceedings, 16 Aug 1968
7. Proceedings (Karl Pheil), 20 Jan 1972

Box 24

1. Proceedings, Mar-Apr 1974
2. Proceedings (Bill of Particulars), 30 May 1974
3. Proceedings (Calendar Call), 10 Jun 1974
4. Proceedings (Pretrial Conference) Jul 1974
5. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: George B. Kirk), 15 Jan 1975
6. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: George B. Kirk), 16 Jan 1975
7. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: George B. Kirk, Flip Crowley), 22 Jan 1975
8. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Flip Crowley), 23 Jan 1975

Box 25

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Ernest Milde, Thomas Sullivan, Frank Demler, Francis Keenan), 27 Jan 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Kenneth Becker), 28 Jan 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Lonnie Poole, Calvin Allen), 29 Jan 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Steward Dan, James Holt), 30 Jan 1975
5. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Holt, Bernard Gaddy), 3 Feb 1975

Box 26

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Holt, Bernard Gaddy), 4 Feb 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Jack Florence), 5 Feb 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Jack Florence), 6 Feb 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: George Kirk, Lonnie Poole), 10-11 Feb 1975

Box 27

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Hart), 18 Feb 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: John Flowers), 19 Feb 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Wilbur Harris, Charles Colvin), 20 Feb 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Charles Colvin, Leon Holt), 24 Feb 1975
5. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Leon Holt, Jiri Newport), 25 Feb 1975

Box 28

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Jiri Newport, Dallas Simon), 26 Feb 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Fred Berry, Dallas Simon), 27 Feb 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Dallas Simon, Willie Lock), 3 Mar 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Willie Lock), 4-5 Mar 1975

Box 29

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Ross), 6 Mar 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Ross), 10 Mar 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Robert Thomas, Jacques Robert), 11 Mar 1975

Box 30

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Douglas Nevins, Leonard Brown), 12 Mar 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: James Stephen, John Sturm), 13 Mar 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Warren Cronan, John Gowrie, Martin Gillen), 17 Mar 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Martin Gillen, Ernest Milde), 18 Mar 1975
5. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Ernest Milde, John Doyle), 19 Mar 1975

Box 31

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Ernest Milde), 20 Mar 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Ernest Milde, Donald Studd), 24 Mar 1975
3. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Edward Palascak, Ernest Milde, James Grable), 25 Mar 1975
4. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Introduction to Exhibits), 26 Mar 1975
5. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Maurice Gavin, Francis Cryan), 27 Mar 1975

6. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Motions), 7 Apr 1975

Box 32

1. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Motions), 8 Apr 1975
2. Proceedings (Wade Hearing: Motions), 9-11 Apr 1975
3. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook), 22-23 Apr 1975
4. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook), 21 Apr 1975
5. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook, Gary Lash), 22 Apr 1975

Box 33

1. Proceedings (Gary Lash), 23 Apr 1975
2. Proceedings (John Steinmetz, James McGuigan) 24 Apr 1975
3. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook) 24 Apr 1975
4. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook) 28 Apr 1975
5. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook) 29 Apr 1975
6. Proceedings (Mary Jo Cook) 30 Apr 1975
7. Proceedings (Opening Statements, David Bartz), 20 May 1975

Box 34

1. Proceedings (David Bartz, Doris Beitz, Karl Pfeil, Stewert Dan), 21 May 1975
2. Proceedings (Stewert Dan, Kenneth Becker, George Kirk), 22 May 1975
3. Proceedings (George Kirk, Bernard Gaddy, Jiri Newport), 27 May 1975
4. Proceedings (Jiri Newport, James Hart, Charles Colvin), 28 May 1975
5. Proceedings (Jack Florence, John Flowers), 2 Jun 1975

Box 35

1. Proceedings (John Flowers, Douglas Nevins), 3 Jun 1975
2. Proceedings (Douglas Nevins, James Holt), 4 Jun 1975
3. Proceedings (James Holt), 5 Jun 1975
4. Proceedings (Calvin Allen, Dallas Simon, James Ross), 9 Jun 1975
5. Proceedings (James Ross), 10 Jun 1975

Box 36

1. Proceedings (Warren Cronan), 11 Jun 1975
2. Proceedings (Edward Qualey, Lloyd Bachman, Edward Bull, Willie Lock), 12 Jun 1975
3. Proceedings (Lloyd Schwab, Dr. Baden), 16 Jun 1975
4. Proceedings (Robert Thomas), 18 Jun 1975
5. Proceedings (Dr. Edland, James Ingram, Jr.), 23 Jun 1975

Box 37

1. Proceedings (Arguments), 25 Jun 1975 (1 of 2)
2. Proceedings (Arguments), 25 Jun 1975 (1 of 2)
3. Proceedings (Jury instructions, Verdict), 26 Jun 1975
4. Proceedings (Stroble v. Michigan Dept. of Corrections), 20 May 1976
5. Proceedings (Stroble v. Egeler), 9 Mar 1977
6. Proceedings (Dr. Baden, Dr. Edland), undated

7. Proceedings (George Kirk), undated
8. Proceedings (Oral Motion to Dismiss), undated
9. Proceedings (Waive of Wade Hearing by Frank Smith aka Big Black), undated
10. Proceedings, undated
11. Prosecution Misconduct; Mary Jo Cook, May 1975

Box 38

1. Record on Appeal; Order Quashing a Subpoena Duces Tecum, State of New York Supreme Court, 1972
2. Submission of Lesser Included Charges to Jury
3. Supplement Joint Appendix, US Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, 1977
4. Trial Timeline, City of Detroit, 1968-1971
5. Witness List, City of Detroit, 19 Jul 1968
6. Witness Statements; Becker, Kenneth, 1974
7. Witness Statements; Berry, Fred, 1971-1974
8. Witness Statements; Brown, Kenneth, 1972
9. Witness Statements; Cochrane, James E, 1972-1974
10. Witness Statements; Colvin, Charles, 1971
11. Witness Statements; Correction Officers, State Troopers, 1974-1975
12. Witness Statements; Cronan, Warren, 1972-1973

Box 39

1. Witness Statements; Florence, Jack, 1972
2. Witness Statements; Flowers, John, undated
3. Witness Statements; Gaddy, Bernard, 1971-1974
4. Witness Statements; Harris, Wilbur, 1971-1974
5. Witness Statements; Hart, James, 1972-1973
6. Witness Statements; Holt, James, 1974
7. Witness Statements; Holt, Leon, 1972-1975
8. Witness Statements; Jones, Carl, 25 Apr 1973
9. Witness Statements; Kinney, Earl, undated

Box 40

1. Witness Statements; Kirk, George, 1971-1972
2. Witness Statements; Kowalczyk, Edward, 1974
3. Witness Statements; Lock, Willie, 1971-1973
4. Witness Statements; Macdonald, Leon, 1974
5. Witness Statements; Milde, Ernest, undated
6. Witness Statements; Nevins, Douglas, 1971-1972
7. Witness Statements; Newport, Jiri, 1972
8. Witness Statements; Poole, Lonnie, 1975
9. Witness Statements; Roberts, Jacques "Curly," 1974-1975
10. Witness Statements; Roland, William, 1973-1975
11. Witness Statements; Ross, James, 1973

Box 41

1. Witness Statements; Ross, Kenneth, undated
2. Witness Statements; Simon, Dallas, 1974-1975
3. Witness Statements; Sturm, John, 1974
4. Witness Statements; Thomas, Robert Lee, 1972-1975
5. Witnesses, list, 1973-1974

Subseries B: Correspondence

Box 41

6. Correspondence, 1968-1971
7. Correspondence, 1973-1974
8. Correspondence, 1975
9. Correspondence, 1976-1978
10. Correspondence, 1979, 1983, undated
11. Attica Legal Defense Memorandum, Aug 1973-May 1974

Subseries C: Research

Box 42

1. Aiding and Abetting
2. Attica Brothers Defense Meetings and Conferences, 1973-1975
3. Bates, Gilbert
4. Blue Print; Attica Prison, Cell Block D
5. Client Grievance Form 13 Apr 1977
6. Clarke, Richard
7. Closing Argument
8. Cristatello, Frank
9. Stewart, Dan
10. Demands and Proposals Made During Uprising, 11-13 Sep 1971
11. Double Jeopardy
12. Exhibit Notes
13. Felony Murder
14. Guards and Personnel
15. Habeas Corpus
16. Hicks, Thomas; Inmate Record Card
17. Hill, James Renard, 1966
18. Investigation by Linda Borus, 1973-1976
19. Jackson Prison Problems, May 1976-Jan 1979
20. Jury Selection
21. Kidnapping Laws
22. Littleton, Gerald Ronald, 1966-1967

Box 43

1. Milligan, Virgil
2. Motion to Dismiss Notes
3. Office of the Medical Examiner; Reports on Barry J. Schwartz, 1971
4. Opening Statement Notes

5. Pathology
6. Notes; Things to Do, Aug-Sep 1974
7. Prison Riots
8. Ross, James
9. Stroble, Bernard "Shango"
10. Stroble, Bernard "Shango;" Medical History
11. Suppression Before a Grand Jury
12. Trial Notes; 14 Apr-27 May 1975
13. Trial Notes; 11 -23 Jun 1975
14. Wade Hearing; Crowley Motions, Jan-Apr 1975
15. Wade Hearing; Notes, Dec 1974-Apr 1975
16. Williams, Anthony
17. Witness Notes; State Police Photographers, 1974

Subseries D: Publicity

Box 44

1. Articles
2. Attica & The Pro Se Defendant, 1976, 1977
3. Attica Memorial Book, 1974
4. Attica: The Official Report of the New York State Special Commission on Attica
5. Chronology of Events, 1971-1974
6. Clippings, 1966-1971
7. Clippings, 1974
8. Clippings, 1975
9. Clippings, 1976
10. Clippings, 1978-1980
11. Fair Jury Project, undated
12. Free Shango, 1978
13. Leaflets, Fliers
14. Memorial of Shango
15. Post Trial Book; Borus, Linda Draft
16. Post Trial Book; Correspondence
17. Post Trial Book; Finances, Apr 1976-Mar 1977
18. Post Trial Book; Jury Selection Notes and Draft
19. Post Trial Book; Miscellaneous Chapter Drafts
20. Post Trial Book; Queries and Rejection Letters, Oct 1976-Oct 1978

Box 45

1. Post Trial Book; Shango's Account Draft
2. Post Trial Book; Transcripts; Ernest Goodman Reflects on Trial, undated
3. Program; 20th Anniversary of the Attica Uprising, 6 Mar 1992
4. Writings by Ernest Goodman
5. Writings by Shango
6. Writings in Support of Attica Defense, 1974-1976, undated

Series V

Subseries A: Immigration-Denaturalization/Deportation Cases

Box 45

7.-8. A-Ba, 1949-1958

Box 46

1.-5. Ba-Ch, 1950-1958

Box 47

1.-11. Co-Ga, 1951-1962

Box 48

1.-25. Ge-Ma, 1950-1959

Box 49

1.-11. Ma-Po, 1951-1970

Box 50

1.-20. Pr-We, 1951-1975

Box 51

1.-6. Wi-Z, 1951-1961

Subseries B: Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers

Box 51:

- 2.-6. Abercrombie v. Opton (Segregation Case), 1962
- 3.-6. Alabama v. Aaron (Rape Case), 1962
- 4.-6. Bail Fund, 1964
- 5.-6. Birmingham, Alabama, 1962
- 6.-6. Book on CASL, 1963
- 7.-6. Briefs and Legal Memos, undated
- 8.-6. Butts v. Harrison, 1963-1965
- 9.-6. CASL Cases, 1963-1965
- 10.-6. Clipping, 1962-1965
- 11.-6. Cobb v. Montgomery, Alabama, 1962

Box 52

1. Commonwealth v. Wansley (Rape Case), 1963
2. Conference on Southern Civil Rights, Mar 1963
3. Correspondence, 1962
4. Correspondence, 1963-1964
5. Correspondence, 1965
6. Correspondence, 1966
7. Correspondence with Other Bar Associations, 1962-1963
8. Covington, Jayvan (Anti-Segregation Case), 1962-1963

9. Criminal Anarchy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1962
10. Danville, Virginia Omnibus Suit, 1962
11. Danville, Virginia Sit-In, 1963
12. Danville, Virginia Trespassing Convictions, 1963
13. Dawley and Holt (Contempt Case), 1962-1964
14. Declaratory Relief for Racist Statute, 1962
15. Frink, Golden (Sit In Demonstration Case), 1962
16. Gadsen Omnibus Integration Suit, 1962
17. Handbook for Laymen, 1962

Box 53

1. Hinds County, Mississippi (Desegregation Case), 1965
2. Hopewell, Virginia (Rev. Harris Contempt Case), 1962
3. Johnson, Senator Leroy, Jan 1963
4. Jordan v. Hutcheson (Segregation Case), 1962-1963
5. Kentucky Miners (Conspiracy to Blow Up Railroad Bridge), 1964
6. Law Day, May 1964
7. Lynchburg, Virginia Omnibus Suit, 1962-1963
8. Lynchburg, Virginia Nursing Home (Segregation Case), 1962-1963
9. Mallory, Mae (Desegregation Case), 1962-1965
10. Mississippi Challenge, 1964-1965
11. Mississippi Project, 1964

Box 54

1. Mississippi Project, 1965
2. Mitchell, Samuel (Court Fine), 1962-1963
3. National Lawyers' Guild, 1964
4. New Orleans Conference, Sep 1963
5. Notes and Research, 1962-1963
6. Palmer v. Thompson (Desegregation); Correspondence, 1965-1970
7. Palmer v. Thompson (Desegregation); Pleadings, Clippings, Research, 1965-1970
8. Physician's Desegregation Case, 1962

Box 55

1. Proof of Need for Attorney's, 1962-1963
2. Rabinowitz, Joni (Jury Selection), 1964-1965
3. Seals, Willie (Rape Case), 1962-1963
4. Segregation in Federal Court Rooms, 1962
5. Sharpe, Israel v. South Carolina (Rape Case), 1962
6. Smith, Ben, 1963-1964
7. Southern Conference, 1962
8. Southern Law Offices, 1963

Box 56

1. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Conference, Apr 1962
2. Talladega (Desegregation), 1962

3. Taylor, Herman Leroy (Failure to File Income Tax Case), 1963-1964
4. Travis, Brenda (Sit-In), 1962
5. Virginia v. Allen (Right to Appeal by Indigent Defendants), 1962-1963
6. Virginia's Habitual Criminal Act, 1962
7. Washington Civil Rights Conference, Jun 1963
8. White House Conference, Jun 1963
9. Wilder v. Thomastown Café (Desegregation), 1965
10. Wood v. Vaughan (Omnibus Integration Case), 1962
11. Zellner, Bob (False Pretense Case), 1963

Subseries C: General Litigation

Box 56

12. Albertson (William) v. Frank G. Millard, 1952
13. Ann Arbor, City of v. John Clark Houston, 1951
14. Basik, Steve v. General Motors Corporation, 1942
15. Bloss, Floyd (Sale of Obscene Literature); Correspondence and Clippings, 1967-1968

Box 57

1. Bloss, Floyd (Sale of Obscene Literature); Pleadings and Proceedings, 1967-1968
2. Board of Street Railway Commission of Detroit, 1946-1950
3. Briefs; General, 1942-1943
4. Briefs; General, 1945

Box 58

1. Briefs; General, 1946
2. Briefs; General, 1948
3. Briefs; General 1955-1958

Box 59

1. Briefs; General, 1959
2. Briefs; General, 1960-1964
3. Briefs; General (1 of 2), undated
4. Briefs; General (2 of 2), undated

Box 60

1. Chrysler Corporation v. Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, et al, 1941
2. Chrysler Corporation v. Calvin Smith, 1940
3. Detroit Edison v. City of Detroit, undated
4. Detroit Police Officers Association (DPOA) v. Coleman A. Young; Briefs (1 of 2), 1978-1980

Box 61

1. DPOA v. Coleman A. Young; Briefs (2 of 2), 1978-1980
2. DPOA v. Coleman A. Young; Correspondence, Publicity, Research, Notes, 1978-1980
3. DPOA v. Coleman A. Young. Pleadings; 1978-1980
4. Esmail, Sami; Clippings, 1978

Box 62

1. Esmail, Sami; Correspondence, Dec 1977-Sep 1978
2. Esmail, Sami; Publicity and Statements, 1978
3. Esmail, Sami; Trial Documents, Testimony, and Research, 1977-1978
4. Green, Eugene v. City of Detroit, et al, 1949
5. Henderson, James; Correspondence, 1942-1955
6. Henderson, James; Correspondence, 1956-1962

Box 63

1. Henderson James; Pleadings (1 of 2), 1953-1955
2. Henderson, James; Pleadings (2 of 2), 1953-1955
3. Henderson, Proceedings, 1942-1954
4. Johnson, Marie, et al v. United Auto Workers, et al, 1953-Dec 1954
5. Kita, Adolf v. Michael Matuszak, 1974
6. Lafferty, James, 1970

Box 64

1. Lown, Henry (Security Clearance), 1955
2. Maher (Judge) v. Kenneth V. Cockrel, 1970
3. Michigan University Students (Refused Re-admittance), 1940
4. Millender, Eugene (Court Martial), 1987
5. Miller, et al v. Douglas Harvey, 1970
6. Mitchell, Lt. Vincent A., 1954-1955
7. Neusom, Thomas, et al v. Loveland Drug Store, 1948
8. O'Brien, Arthur v. United Auto Workers Local 600, 1948

Box 65

1. Olsen, Samuel B. v. William Doerfler and Royal News Company; Pleadings, 1963-1968
2. Olsen, Samuel B. v. William Doerfler and Royal News Company; Research, Exhibits, Correspondence and Proceedings, 1963-1968
3. Patterson, Hayward (Extradition), 1950-1952
4. Possession and Sale of Obscene Materials; Trial Transcripts, undated
5. Ritholz, Benjamin, 1960
6. Royal News Company v. Olsen, et al (Obscenity Law); Correspondence and Research, 1963-1967

Box 66

1. Royal News Company v. Olsen, et al; Deposition of Edward Marx, Jan-May 1964
2. Royal News Company v. Olsen, et al; Pleadings, 1963-1967
3. Sage, Sam v. United Auto Workers, et al (Discharge), Jul 1949-Sep 1952
4. Sanchick, Edwin v. Michigan State Board of Examiners in Optometry, 1955
5. Shaferman, Dr. Eugene (Dies Committee Case), 1938

Box 67

1. Smith Act Trial (New York); Contempt Citation Against George W. Crockett, Jr. 1949-1950
2. Smith, August v. Leland Carr, 1940
3. Spanish Loyalty Indictments; Correspondence, 1940-1990
4. Spanish Loyalty Indictments; Publicity, Notes, undated
5. Spanish Loyalty Indictments; Statements, 1940
6. State of Michigan v. Beeman, William K., 1970
7. State of Michigan v. Brothman, Anita Susan, et. al. (Ann Arbor Sit-In); Correspondence, 1965-1967

Box 68

1. State of Michigan v. Brothman Anita Susan, et.al (Ann Arbor Sit-In); Pleadings, 1965-1967
2. State of Michigan v. Brothman, Anita Susan, et. al. (Ann Arbor Sit-In); Transcripts, 1966
3. State of Michigan v. Doerfler, William; Final Arguments, 21 Jan 1966
4. State of Michigan v. Nelson, Ruby; Correspondence, Notes, and Publicity, 1977-1978
5. State of Michigan v. Nelson, Ruby; Pleadings and Related Trial Documents, 1977-1978
6. STRESS Trial

Box 69

1. Thomas, R.J. v. H.W. Collins, Sheriff of Travis County Texas, 1943
2. United Auto Workers Local 600 (Trials of P. Boatman, E. Lock, D. Moore, N. Davis, J. Gallo), 1952
3. United Auto Workers Local 600 v. Ford Motor Company (Decentralization), 1951-1953
4. United States of America (US) v. Gleicher, Morris; Correspondence, 1979-1981
5. US v. Gleicher; Jury, 1979

Box 70

1. US v. Gleicher; Memorandum and Notes, 1979-1980
2. US v. Gleicher; Pleadings, Apr-Sep 1979
3. US v. Gleicher; Pleadings, Oct 1979-Jan 1980
4. US v. Gleicher; Pleadings, Feb-Aug 1980, undated
5. US v Gleicher; Prosecution Misconduct, 1979-1980
6. US v. Gleicher; Publicity, 1979

Box 71

1. US v. Geicher; Research and Investigation, 1973-1980
2. US v. Gleicher; Subpoenas, 1978-1980
3. US v. Gleicher; Trial Log and Final Arguments, 1979
4. US v. Rumanian-American Publishing Association (RAPA); Correspondence, Research, and Notes, 1956-1957
5. US v. RAPA; Pleadings, 1956-1957
6. Ward, Ronny (Court Martial), 1967-1968
7. Wiggins, Ozroe P. v. City of Detroit (Disloyalty), 1949

Box 72

1. Wolfson, William v. Wayne State University (WSU), et al; Correspondence, Sep 1956-Jun 1975, undated
2. Wolfson v. WSU; Myers, Gordon, Dec 1960-Mar 1965
3. Wolfson v. WSU; Neef, Arthur, 1963-1964
4. Wolfson v. WSU; Pleadings, 1960-1968
5. Wolfson v. WSU; Proceedings, 2 Aug 1965
6. Woods, John v. Board of Education of City of Highland Park, 1961
7. Woods, Lemas, 1946-1951
8. Ypsilanti, City of v. John Houston, 1948-1950

Series VI

Subseries A: National Lawyers Guild

Box 72

9. Chapter Officers Conference, 1-2 Jul 1939
10. Citizen's Committee to End Political Surveillance, 1975
11. Committee on Civil Rights, 1941
12. Committee on Civilian Defense, 1942
13. Committee on International Law, 1939

Box 73

1. Committee on Native American Struggles, 1977
2. Constitution, By-Laws and Resolutions, 1937
3. Constitutional Rights, undated
4. Convention, 1938
5. Convention, 1940
6. Convention, 1941
7. Convention, 1950
8. Convention, 1956
9. Convention, 1957
10. Convention, 1960
11. Convention, 1962
12. Convention, 1964
13. Convention, 1965
14. Convention, 1967
15. Convention, 1968
16. Convention, 1970

Box 74

1. Convention, 1972
2. Convention, 1973
3. Convention, 1974
4. Convention, 1976
5. Convention, 1977
6. Convention, 1979

7. Convention, 1980
8. Convention, 1982
9. Convention, 1983
10. Convention, 1986
11. Convention, 1988
12. Convention, 1989
13. Convention, 1991
14. Convention, 1994

Box 75

1. Correspondence; General, 1939-1990
2. Detroit Chapter; Annual Dinner, 1944
3. Detroit Chapter; Annual Dinner Programs, 1961-1987
4. Detroit Chapter; Annual Dinner Programs, 1988-1994
5. Detroit Chapter; Briefs, Reports and Statements, 1939-1980s
6. Detroit Chapter; Committee to Oppose Appointed Judges, 1937
7. Detroit Chapter; Correspondence, 1936-1942
8. Detroit Chapter; Correspondence, 1942-1988

Box 76

1. Detroit Chapter; FBI Records, 1940s-1950s
2. Detroit Chapter; Fund for Equal Justice, 1970-1976
3. Detroit Chapter; Loyalty Oaths, 1950
4. Detroit Chapter; Meetings, 1938-1945, 1962, 1986
5. Detroit Chapter; Membership, 1938-1948, 1961, undated
6. Detroit Chapter; Newsletters, 1938-1947
7. Detroit Chapter; Newsletters, 1970-1990
8. Detroit Chapter; Pamphlets, 1973-1982
9. Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting; Committee, 1987
10. Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting; Correspondence, 1985-1987

Box 77

1. Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting; Publicity, Fliers and Pamphlets, 1987
2. Fund for Equal Justice (FFEJ); Atmore Holman Defense Fund, 1974-1975
3. FFEJ; Attica Defense Fund, 1975
4. FFEJ; Board of Trustees Meetings, 1964-1978
5. FFEJ; Citizens for Pre-Trial Justice, 1976
6. FFEJ; Contributions and Payout, 1968-1979
7. FFEJ; Correspondence, 1963-1979
8. FFEJ; Criminal Jury Trial Project, 1974
9. FFEJ; Guild Law School, 1974-1977
10. FFEJ; Gulf Coast Pulpwood, 1972

Box 78

1. FFEJ; Los Angeles Chapter, 1970
2. FFEJ; Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Library, 1972

3. FFEJ; New York Prison Reform, 1971-1973
4. FFEJ; Puerto Rico Legal Project, 1977-1978
5. FFEJ; Reactivation of Fund, 1976
6. FFEJ; Regents of the University of California v. Allen Bakke, 1977
7. FFEJ; Requests for Funds, 1966-1975
8. FFEJ; Requests for Funds – Turned Down, 1976
9. FFEJ; San Francisco On-Call Project, 1972
10. FFEJ; Southern Legal Action Movement, 1969-1970
11. FFEJ; Southern Rural Research Project, 1968
12. FFEJ; Tax Exemption, 1965-1974
13. Guild Notes, May 1988-Sep 1996
14. Guild Practitioner, 1965-1969

Box 79

1. Guild Practitioner, 1970-1986
2. Guild Practitioner; Correspondence and Editorial Board, 1968-1972
3. History; Clippings and Press Releases, 1939-1980s
4. History; Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers, 1962-1964
5. History of the National Lawyers Guild, 1937-1987
6. History; Origins of Organization, 1936
7. History; Pamphlets, Booklets, 1940-1988
8. History; Writings, undated
9. International Law Committee, 1974-1982

Box 80

1. Labor Committee, 1940s
2. Mid-East Delegation, 1977
3. Military Law Project; Annual Report, 1972-1973
4. Military Law Project; Black Project (Southeast Asia), 1971-1973
5. Military Law Project; Book, 1973
6. Military Law Project; Clippings, Press Releases, Fliers, 1971-1976
7. Military Law Project; Correspondence, Aug 1969-Dec 1971
8. Military Law Project; Correspondence, 1972-1973
9. Military Law Project; Correspondence, 1974-1976
10. Military Law Project; Project Reports, 1971-1973

Box 81

1. National Executive Board (NEB) Meetings, 1939
2. NEB Meetings, 1960
3. NEB Meetings, 1964-1969
4. NEB Meetings, 1981
5. Newsletter, May 1964-Jun 1969
6. Past Presidents' Appeal for Funds, 1973
7. Summer Project, 1977
8. Washington, DC Chapter; Evening Honoring Joe Forer, 9 Jun 1979

Subseries B: Association of American Jurists

Box 81

9. 1st Annual Conference; Correspondence, Oct 1970-Sep 1973
10. 1st Annual Conference; Correspondence, Oct 1973-Aug 1975
11. 1st Annual Conference; Reports and Notes, Jun 1974
12. 2nd Annual Conference, Jun 1975
13. 3rd Annual Conference, Oct 1977

Box 82

1. 4th Annual Conference, Nov 1979
2. 4th Annual Conference; Preparatory Committee, Feb 1978-Oct 1979
3. 5th Annual Conference; Correspondence, Aug-Sep 1981
4. 5th Annual Conference; Reports and Notes, Aug-Sep 1981
5. 6th Annual Conference, 1983
6. 7th Annual Conference, 1985
7. 8th Annual Conference, 1987

Box 83

1. Correspondence, Dec 1977-May 1989
2. Letterhead, Application for Membership, undated
3. Membership and Delegates, undated
4. Nicaragua Delegation Visit to Detroit, Nov 1983
5. Permanent Secretariat; Managua, Nicaragua, 1981-1983
6. Resolutions, Programs and Minutes, 1983-1988
7. Statute, undated

Subseries C: Bucks Dinner

Box 83

8. 1939
9. 1940
10. 1943
11. 1944
12. 1945
13. 1946
14. 1947
15. 1948
16. 1949
17. 1950
18. 1951
19. 1952
20. 1953
21. 1954
22. 1955
23. 1956
24. 1957
25. 1958

26. 1959
27. 1960

Box 84

1. 1961
2. 1962
3. 1963
4. 1964
5. 1965
6. 1966
7. 1967
8. 1968
9. 1969
10. 1970
11. 1971

Box 85

1. 1972
2. 1973
3. 1974
4. 1975
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8. 1979
9. 1980
10. 1981
11. 1982
12. 1983
13. 1984
14. 1985

Box 86

1. 1986
2. 1987
3. 1988
4. 1989
5. 1990
6. 1991
7. 1992
8. 1993
9. 1994

Series VII: Subject Files

Box 86

10. Argentina; General, 1978-1980

11. Argentina; Imprisoned Lawyers, 1975
12. Articles on Ernest Goodman, 1971-1992, undated

Box 87

1. Biography of Ernest Goodman and George Crockett; Draft, 1993-1995 (1 of 2)
2. Biography of Ernest Goodman and George Crockett; Draft, 1993-1995 (2 of 2)
3. Black Panther Case; Scrapbook of Clippings, 1970-1971
4. Blossom Health Club; Clippings, 1945
5. Callahan Act, 1948
6. Certificates Awarded to Ernest Goodman, undated
7. China's Legal System, 1978-1979
8. Chrysler Case; Clippings, 1939-1940
9. Civil Rights; Congress on Civil Rights, Correspondence, 1946-1947
10. Civil Rights Congress; Correspondence, 1942-1950
11. Civil Rights Congress; Fliers, Reports, Newsletters, Clippings, 1946-1953

Box 88

1. Civil Rights Congress; Organization and Meeting Minutes, 1946
2. Civil Rights Federation, 1943
3. Civil Rights; National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Correspondence, 1940-1946
4. Clippings; General
5. Closing Arguments, undated
6. Collier & Goodman, 1932-1939
7. Commencement Address; Wayne State University Law School, May 1993
8. Committee on Economic Welfare of Profession, 1939
9. Compensation Cases, 1948-1950
10. Condemnation Amendment, 1929
11. Correspondence; Personal, 1928-1949
12. Crockett, George, Jr.; Biographical
13. Crockett, George, Jr.; Judicial Tenure Committee – New Bethel Affidavits, 1969
14. Crockett, George, Jr.; Judicial Tenure Committee – New Bethel Correspondence and Support, 1969
15. Crockett, George, Jr.; Judicial Tenure Committee – New Bethel Pleadings and Reports, 1969
16. Crockett, George, Jr.: Testimonial Dinner, 1991

Box 89

1. Cuba, 1976
2. Czechoslovakia, 1968-1970
3. Defender System, 1959-1963
4. Detroit Fair Employment Practices Ordinance, 1951
5. Detroit Mayoral Election, 1945
6. Detroit Police Department; Annual Reports, 1955-1958
7. Detroit Police Department; Civil Rights, Correspondence, 1956-1962
8. Detroit Race Riots, 1943

9. Detroit Red Squad Files; Ernest Goodman, 1938-1971 (1 of 3)
10. Detroit Red Squad Files; Ernest Goodman, 1938-1971 (2 of 3)
11. Detroit Red Squad Files; Ernest Goodman, 1938-1971 (3 of 3)
12. Detroit Red Squad Files; Firm of Goodman, Crockett, Eden & Robb, 1939-1964

Box 90

1. Detroit Red Squad Files; Progressive Party, 1946-1948
2. Detroit Red Squad Files; Progressive Party, 1948-1949
3. Detroit Red Squad Files; Progressive Party, 1950-1952
4. Detroit Workmen's Cooperative, 1956-1970
5. Dickson Fagan, 1945
6. Dies Committee; Detroit, 1943-1952
7. Discriminatory Practices in the Sale of Life and Automobile Insurance, 1949
8. Fair Practice Employment Act; Correspondence, Clippings, 1942-1947

Box 91

1. Fair Practice Employment Act; History, 1942-1947
2. Fair Practice Employment Act; Pleadings, 1942-1947
3. FBI Files; Ernest Goodman, 1940s
4. FBI Files; Ernest Goodman, 1940s-1950s
5. FBI Files; Ernest Goodman, 1960s
6. FBI Files; Ernest Goodman, 1960s-1970s
7. FBI Files; Freedom of Information Act Correspondence, 1976-1977
8. FBI Surveillance of George Crockett, 1966-1976

Box 92

1. Ford Decentralization, 1951-1952
2. Ford Hunger March; Commemoration, 1978-1982
3. Furay, Mort; Memorial, Correspondence, 1972
4. Goodman, Ernest; Book; Andrew Cockrell Chapter, Draft, undated
5. Goodman, Ernest; Book; Ann Arbor Sit-In Chapter, Draft, undated
6. Goodman, Ernest; Book; Correspondence, 1973-1974
7. Goodman, Ernest; Book; Lemas Wood Chapter, Draft, undated
8. Goodman, Ernest; Campaign for Attorney General, 1948
9. Goodman, Ernest; History Tapes, Correspondence, 1988-1991
10. Goodman, Ernest; History Tapes, Transcripts, undated
11. Goodman, Ernest; Interview, Notes, 1983
12. Goodman, Ernest; Transcripts, 1983
13. Goodman (Guttman) Family Tree
14. Gordon, Honorable Arthur E., 1948

Box 93

1. Hearings Before the Committee Un-American Activity, Detroit, 1954
2. Henderson, James; Clippings, 1954
3. Hill, Charles A. Jr.; Army Loyalty, 1951
4. Hobart Street Incident, 1967

5. Horst, Peter, 1957
6. House Un-American Activities; Detroit, 1952
7. Hunting; Annual Trip, 1946-1986
8. Institute of Race Relations, 1944
9. International Association of Democratic Lawyers, 1968-1980

Box 94

1. International Workers Order; Gubernatorial Election, Detroit, 1938
2. Interviews with Ernest Goodman, 1979-1990, undated
3. Japan
4. Krause, Henry, 1987-1995
5. Legal Travelogue, 1963
6. Letter to the Editor, 1929-1963
7. Litigation of Political issues; Correspondence, Outline, 1966
8. Lown, Harold (Security Risk); Correspondence, 1954-1960
9. Lown, Harold (Security Risk); Transcripts, 1955-1959
10. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Black Lake Property, 1926-1980
11. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Black Lake Property, Sale and Appraisal, 1987-90
12. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Black Lake Property, Sale to UAW, 1975-1989

Box 95

1. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Frank Murphy Memorial Museum, 1991-1993
2. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Grant Requests – Granted, 1985-1990
3. Maurice and Jane Sugar Foundation; Grant Requests – Turned Down, 1987-90
4. Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center, 1990-1995
5. Michigan Citizens Committee; Correspondence and Newsletters, 1944-47
6. Michigan Citizens Committee; Minutes, 1944-47
7. Michigan Citizens Committee; Organizational Records, Clippings, 1944-47
8. Michigan Citizens Committee; School of Political Action Techniques, 1946
9. Michigan Consolidated Gas Company Gas Cut Off, 1980

Box 96

1. Michigan Constitutional Amendment; Subversion, 1950
2. Michigan Militant, 1964
3. Mid-East Conflict, 1970-1980, undated
4. Millender, Robert L. Sr., 1979
5. Mosely, Leon, 1948
6. Namibia, 1975-1977
7. National Wallace for President Committee, 1946-1950
8. Norns, Harold, 1995
9. Nowak, Stanley; Clippings, Fliers, 1942-1943
10. One-Man Grand Jury Law, 1946
11. Oral History; Transcript of Ernest Goodman, undated (1 of 2)
12. Oral History; Transcript of Ernest Goodman, undated (2 of 2)
13. Poleschuk, Nicholas Alexander, 1957

Box 97

1. Police Arrests and Detention, 1954-57
2. Poll Tax, 1946
3. Portal to Portal Case, 1947
4. Pre-Paid Legal Services, 1961-1964
5. Progressive Party, 1948-1950
6. Progressive Party; New Party Platform Committee, 1948
7. Progressive Party of Michigan, 1948
8. Progressive Party of Michigan; State Convention, 1949
9. Race Relations, 1940-1945, undated
10. Radulovich, Milo, 1953-1994
11. Reports by Ernest Goodman, 1962-1970
12. Robb, Dean, 1985-1987, undated
13. Rosen, Sid, 1977-1984, undated

Box 98

1. Smith Act Trial; Clippings, 1953-1958 (1 of 3)
2. Smith Act Trial; Clippings, 1953-1958 (2 of 3)
3. Smith Act Trial; Clippings, 1953-1958 (3 of 3)
4. Socialist Party Shootout, 1966
5. Sojourner Truth Housing Project, 1942
6. South Africa, 1979-1994
7. Speaking Engagements, 1938-1960
8. Speeches by Goodman, 1973-1995, undated

Box 99

1. Study of Criminal Law in Europe and Africa, 1961
2. Study of Criminal Law in Europe and Africa, 1963
3. Sugar, Maurice; Biography, Correspondence, 1974-1978
4. Sugar, Maurice; Memorial, 1974
5. Thomas, R.L.; Clippings, 1943
6. Travel; Europe Diary, 1961
7. Tribute to Ernest Goodman, 1980
8. Trucks Act, 1952-1953

Box 100

1. UAW-CIO; Clippings, 1941, undated
2. University of Detroit Sit- In, 1970
3. Wallace for President Committee; "The Citizen," 1948
4. Wallace for President Committee; Michigan Committee, 1947-1948
5. Wallace, Henry, 1948
6. Wolfgang, Myra, 1976
7. WPA Music Project, 1940
8. Writings; By Ernest Goodman, 1936-1987, undated (1 of 2)
9. Writings; By Ernest Goodman, 1936-1987, undated (2 of 2)
10. Young, Coleman A.; Correspondence, 1949-1982

11. Young, Coleman A.; Mayor's Hunger Project Committee, 1982-1984

Ernest Goodman Papers, Part III

2 linear feet

1951-1996 (bulk 1980-1996)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Finding aid written by Kathy Makas on June 17, 2010.

Accession Number: 1152

Creator: Ernest Goodman

Acquisition: Part III of the Ernest Goodman Papers was received as part of the William Goodman Papers given to the Reuther Library in 2010. Materials join Parts I and II as part of the Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History.

Language: Material entirely in English.

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.**

Notes: Citation style: “Ernest Goodman Papers, Part III, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: A cassette tape from the Muhammad Shakoor trial and photographs of Goodman’s Estonian relatives were transferred to the Reuther’s Audio-Visual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their

original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

History

Ernest Goodman was born in Hemlock, Michigan on August 21, 1906. In 1928, he graduated from the first law school class at Wayne State University. Upon graduation and passing the bar, Goodman opened a law practice in Detroit with a classmate. To make ends meet, he began taking collection cases on behalf of local merchants. As the city sank into poverty due to the depression, Goodman had an epiphany that would become a guiding force in his career and his life: he would "...use the law as an instrument to obtain justice for the common people."¹ This transformation was born both by his own professional frustration, and by his introduction to labor lawyer, Maurice Sugar.

Goodman spent the next twelve years, until 1947, deeply involved with the labor movement. He worked alongside Sugar, as Associate General Counsel of the United Auto Workers, fighting in some of Michigan's most bitter union organizing struggles.

In 1937 another event occurred that would influence Goodman's personal and professional life: he became executive secretary of the newly formed Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). This association opened a new world of diversity for Goodman and would be a lifelong influence on Goodman's career. Many of his cases would come from the NLG; others would be tried with the same principles that formed its basis.

In 1950, Goodman joined with George Crockett, Mort Eden, and Dean Robb to form the first (known) interracial law partnership. Goodman continued his dedication to serve the common man by taking unpopular clients, including Communists, Black Panthers, prison inmates, and African Americans during the civil rights movement.

Ernest Goodman died in 1997 at the age of 90. He was survived by his wife of 65 years, Freda, and his sons, Richard and William.

Scope and Content

Part III of Mr. Goodman's papers focuses on miscellaneous cases he was involved in, mainly in the 1980's and 1990's, drafts of his book and other writings, and his work with the Wayne State University Law School. It also includes correspondence from 1961-1996, particularly his correspondence with his relatives in Estonia.

Important Correspondents:

Glickman, Rosa and Abram

Glickman, Leon

¹ 88:7 Commencement Address; Wayne State University Law School, May 1993

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Box 101

1. Calvin Cunningham Case, 1992-1994
2. Anna Ganley Case, 1975-1995
3. McEarhern, David, 1988-1989
4. Willie McGee Case, 1952
5. Willie McGee Case; Newspaper Clippings
6. Ed Risk Case, 1988
7. Scott, Elgine G., 1987
8. Adam and Muhammad Shakoor, 1989
9. Voir Dire Examination in the Detroit 15 Black Panther Conspiracy Murder Case
10. Claudine Williams, 1989-1994
11. Williams, Henry, 1985
12. Williams, Robert, 1985
13. Miscellaneous Cases, 1951-1984
14. Miscellaneous Cases, 1985-1986
15. Miscellaneous Cases, 1987
16. Miscellaneous Cases, 1988
17. Miscellaneous Cases, 1989
18. Miscellaneous Cases, 1990-1991
19. Miscellaneous Cases, 1992-1993
20. Miscellaneous Cases, 1994-1995

Box 102

1. Correspondence, 1961-1977
2. Correspondence, 1991-1996
3. Correspondence with Rosa and Abram Glickman, and other Estonian Relatives, 1938-1994
4. Correspondence with Leon Glickman
5. USSR Newspaper Articles
6. Book Prospectus
7. Attica Shango/Stroble Trial; Book Chapter, 1973
8. Writings on Travel, Foreign Legal Systems, 1961, 1963, undated
9. Speech at National Lawyer's Guild Tribute to Ernest Goodman, 1980-12-13
10. "Our Overloaded Judicial System – What is the Cause? Is There a Remedy?"
Detroit College of Law Review, 1983
11. "The Spanish Loyalist Indictments: Skirmish in Detroit," *The Guild Practitioner*
12. Miscellaneous Writings
13. Nathan B. Goodnow President's Award, 1995
14. Chapter on Obscenity, for Book *The Obscenity of Censorship*, with Edward L. Galligan
15. Civil Rights Activists' Memorials, 1 of 2
16. Civil Rights Activists' Memorials, 2 of 2

17. Sugar Foundation, Funding and Land Transfer
18. Detroit Urban League, 1986-1996
19. Wayne State University Commencement, 1993
20. Wayne State University Law School
21. Article on Ernest Goodman, Detroit News, 1989-5-1