

THE ARTHUR F. LEDERLE COLLECTION

Papers, 1914-1967  
(Predominantly 1933-1960)

3 1/4 linear feet

Accession Number 559  
L. C. Number MS

The papers of Arthur J. Lederle were deposited in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in June of 1972 and opened for research in August of 1985.

Arthur J. Lederle was born in Leland, Michigan on November 25, 1887. He graduated from Michigan State Normal School (now Eastern Michigan University) in 1909, and taught in the Detroit area public schools from 1912 to 1923. He received an LL.B. degree from Detroit College of Law in 1915, and an LL.M. from the University of Detroit in 1924. From 1923 to 1936 Mr. Lederle was Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit, working on education and highway matters. He also served as Chairman of the Wayne County Democratic Party from 1933-1935. In 1936 Mr. Lederle was appointed to the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, where he served until his retirement in 1960. He was Chief Judge of the Federal District court for ten of those years, beginning in 1949.

Judge Lederle retained an interest in education throughout his life. He taught from 1936 to 1946 at Wayne State University Law, served as Chairman of the 1959 Citizens for Schools millage campaign, and endowed scholarships at Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State Law School.

The papers reflect Judge Lederle's position in Democratic Party affairs in the 1930's, his interest in court administration and civil procedure, the major cases over which he presided while on the Federal bench (including the Monroe Paper SEC case, and Detroit housing desegregation suits), and his educational activities.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Abolition of U. S. Commissioners, 1946-1948  
Detroit public school millage campaign, 1959  
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, 1952-1956  
Michigan Democratic Party patronage and factions, 1933-1936  
"Monroe Paper" cases, 1954-1955

Important correspondents include:

Florence Allen	Frank Murphy
Hugo T. Black	Frank Picard
Warren E. Burger	George Sadkowski
Tom Clark	Will Shafroth
John Dingell	Potter Stewart
Edgar Guest	Arthur Tuthill
Phil Hart	G. Mennen Williams

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on pages 8 and 9.

Contents

4.5 manuscript boxes

1 book box

Series I, Democratic Party, 1933-1936, Box 1

Correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to elections, Democratic Party factions and patronage. Particularly well-documented are Mr. Lederle's nomination in March, 1935, to the Wayne County Circuit Court, his subsequent unsuccessful campaign in April, and his appointment to the Federal bench the following year. A group of original election returns from Ward 8 for the April election is included.

Series II, Federal District Court, 1936-1960, Boxes 1-3:

Subseries A: Court appointments, 1936-1956, Box 1, Correspondence and transcripts. Transcript of swearing-in ceremony, and letters of congratulation, 1936; correspondence on possible appointment to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1938, 1941, 1956.

Subseries B: Cases and court administration, 1936-1960, Boxes 1-2, Correspondence, transcripts, clippings and court decisions. Correspondence and transcripts of meetings regarding the abolition of U. S. Commissioners, pre-trial procedure and docket control. The clippings and decisions document major cases handled by Judge Lederle, particularly the "Monroe Paper Cases" (Knapp v. Kinsey, In re Timbers), and Detroit public housing desegregation.

Subseries C: Judge Lederle's writings, 1946-1959, Boxes 2-3, Drafts and printed copies of articles, speeches and conference papers, primarily on court administration and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Series III, Personal Files, 1914-1967, Boxes 3-5:

Newspaper clippings, correspondence, transcripts, financial records. Much of the material relates to the Citizens for Schools millage campaign and Judge Lederle's other educational activities. The clippings document his career as Detroit Assistant Corporation Counsel, and his retirement in 1960. Transcripts of ceremonies honoring Judge Lederle and personal correspondence are also included. After 1960 most of the correspondence is from family members.

Series IV: Scrapbooks, 1932-1945, Box 6 (book box):

Newspaper clippings documenting Mr. Lederle's campaigns for Probate Court in 1932 and Wayne County Circuit Court in 1935, his appointment to the Federal District court in 1936, Democratic Party factions, the liquor-fraud conspiracy trial of Frank McKay in 1941 and other matters.

Non-manuscript material:

Memorabilia and photographs of Judge Lederle, including group photographs of courts, political groups and the 1959 millage campaign, have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection. The judge's personal library of legal periodicals and autographed fiction is available in the Archives Library.

Series I  
Democratic Party, 1933-1936  
Box 1

Correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to elections, Democratic Party factions and patronage. Particularly well-documented are Mr. Lederle's nomination in March, 1935, to the Wayne County Circuit Court, his subsequent unsuccessful campaign in April, and his appointment to the Federal bench the following year. A group of original election returns from Ward 8 for the April election is included. This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1

1. Elections, party appointments, 1933-34
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3. Nominations, endorsements, patronage, 16 Dec - 31 Dec 1934
4. Clippings, 1934
5. Nominations, endorsements, patronage, Jan 1935
6. Endorsements, supporters list, Feb 1935
7. Congratulations, endorsements for general election,  
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8. Congratulations, endorsements, campaign finance, 10 Mar -  
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9. Election returns, patronage, campaign correspondence,  
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10. Campaign, patronage correspondence, resignation, 8 Apr -  
30 Apr 1935
11. Federal appointment, party factions; clippings, Apr 1935  
- Mar 1936
12. Patronage, federal appointment; corres., May - Nov 1935
13. Federal appointment; corres., Jan - Feb 1936

Series II  
Federal District Court, 1936-1960  
Boxes 1-3

Files relating to Judge Lederle's work on the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. This series is divided into the following three subseries:

Subseries A: Court appointments, 1936-1956, Box 1

Correspondence and transcripts. Transcript of swearing-in ceremony, and letters of congratulation, 1936; correspondence on possible appointment to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1938, 1941, 1956. The cables and letters of congratulation in this subseries are arranged alphabetically, the rest of the material is in chronological order.

Subseries B: Cases and court administration, 1936-1960, Boxes 1-2

Correspondence, transcripts, clippings and court decisions. The clippings and decisions document major cases handled by Judge Lederle, particularly the trial of Frank McKay, the "Monroe Paper Cases" (Knapp v. Kinsey, In re Timbers), and Detroit housing desegregation suits. Also well documented is the Judge's work toward the abolition of U. S. Commissioners, the development of pre-trial procedure, and docket control. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries C: Judge Lederle's writings, 1948-1959, Boxes 2-3

Drafts and printed copies of articles, speeches and conference papers, primarily on court administration and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries A: Court appointments, 1936-1956

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- 14-15. Congratulatory cables, Feb - Mar 1936
- 16-21. Congratulatory letters, Feb - Mar 1936
22. Congratulatory letters W-Z; swearing-in, Mar 1936
23. 6th circuit appointment corres., clippings, 1938, 1941, 1956

Subseries B: Cases and court administration, 1936-1960

Box 1

24. Court administration corres., 1936-46
25. Cases; clippings, corres., 1936-41
26. McKay trial clippings, 1941

Box 2

1. Case clippings, corres., 1942-1949
2. Report on U. S. Commissioners, 1946
3. Report on pre-trials, 1948
- 4-6. Meeting transcripts; U. S. Commissioners, Aug 1948
7. Edited transcript U. S. Commissioners, 25 Aug 1948
8. Court administration clippings, 1949-58
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10. Case clippings, 1950-57
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12. Detroit housing desegregation; corres., clippings, 1954-1955
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14. Monroe Paper cases; clippings, corres., May - Oct 1955
15. Appellees' brief In re Timbers, /Apr 1955/
16. Appellees' reply brief, In re Timbers, 19 Apr 1955
17. In re Timbers corres., 28 Apr 1955
18. Appellants' brief Knapp v. Kinsey, 8 Nov 1955
19. Appellees' brief Knapp v. Kinsey, 6 Dec 1955
20. Appellees' reply brief Knapp v. Kinsey, 20 Dec 1955
21. Opinion Knapp v. Kinsey, Aug 1957
22. Court administration corres., reports, 1959
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Subseries C: Judge Lederle's writings, 1946-1959

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24. "U.S.Commissioners Unnecessary in Metropolitan Districts", 1946
25. Draft "Pre-trial & Discovery under Federal Rules", /pre-May, 1952/

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1. 2nd draft, "Pre-trial...", n.d.
2. "Pre-trial", Genesee Co. Bar Assn., 12 May 1952
3. "Abolishing Court Appendanges", Nat'l. Assn. Women Lawyers, Sep 1952
4. "Progress in Judicial Administration", Oct 1953
5. Clippings, 1954 - 1959
6. Draft ABA speech, n.d.
7. "What Public...Expects of Courts", ABA Judicial Lunch, Mar 1954
8. "Public...Expects", Broome Co. Bar Assn., 22 May 1954
9. "Public...Expects", Cleveland Bar Assn., 15 Sep 1954
10. Cleveland speech clippings, 1954
11. Draft A of Cincinnati version, "Public...Expects", n.d.
12. Draft B of Cincinnati version, n.d.
13. "Public...Expects", Cincinnati Civic Club, 7 Jun 1955
14. "Proposed New Rules of Federal Procedure", NACCA, 19 May 1956
15. Speech fragment /NACCA address?/, n.d.
16. Other writings and speeches, 1933-58
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Series III  
Personal Files, 1914-1967  
Boxes 3-5

Newspaper clippings, correspondence, transcripts, financial records. Much of the material relates to the Citizens for Schools millage campaign and Judge Lederle's other educational activities. The clippings document his career

as Detroit Assistant Corporation Counsel, and his retirement in 1960. Transcripts of ceremonies honoring Judge Lederle and personal correspondence are also included. After 1960 most of the correspondence is from family members. This series is arranged chronologically, except for the 67th and 70th birthday correspondence, which is alphabetical.

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21. Detroit schools; clippings, 1921-29
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23. Asst. Corporation Counsel; clippings, 1926
24. Condemnations; clippings, 1928-29
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26. City taxes; clippings, 1932
27. Streets and highways; clippings, 1933-34
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15. 70th Birthday; corres., Nov - Dec 1957
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- 3-11. Personal corres., 1962-63
12. Real estate, personal papers, 1965-67

Series IV  
Scrapbooks, 1932-1945  
Box 6

Newspaper clippings documenting Mr. Lederle's campaigns for Probate Court in 1932 and Wayne County Circuit Court in 1935, his appointment to the Federal District Court in 1936, Democratic Party factions, the liquor-fraud trial of Frank McKay in 1941, and other political matters.

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