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
- 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

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

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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.


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.

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

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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.

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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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