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Wiley E. Branton 187-1 to 187-18

Manuscript Division Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Howard University

Scope and Contents

The papers of lawyer, civil rights activist, and former Howard University Law School Dean, Wiley A. Branton (1923-1988) span the period of 1946-1989 and measure approximately 7 1/2 linear feet. Correspondence comprises the bulk of the collection and includes notables such as Daisy Bates, John Hope Franklin, Vernon Jordan, Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King,, Jr., Benjamin Mays, Walter White, and Roy Wilkins.

Branton was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Biographical and educational material can be found in the Personal Papers series. Branton was one of the first African-American students enrolled in the University of Arkansas where he earned his J.D. in 1952. He practiced law in Pine Bluff from 1952-1962, and during that time he achieved national prominence as Chief Counsel for the plaintiffs in the Little Rock School case. Branton's legal papers from that case are not included in this collection. Reference to Branton's role in the case, however, can be found throughout his correspondence, speeches, and writings about Branton. Newspaper clippings chronicling the case can be found in Scrapbook II.

From 1962 until his investiture as Dean of the Howard University Law School in 1978, Branton continued to practice law but also served on many important civil rights projects. He was the first Executive Director of the Voter Education Project; the Executive Director of the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership, Inc.; Executive Secretary to the President's Council on Equal Opportunity; and Director of the United Planning Organization, Washington, D.C. Material relating to these organizations can be found in the series Organizational Affiliations.

In 1972 Branton was chosen to direct the Voter Registration Fund (VRF), a non-partisan organization created to provide funding to tax exempt organizations in support of voter registra-

tion activities. Of note in this collection are Branton's files from that organization. The final report of the VRF outlines the organization's goals and achievements. Application material, reports, and printed material of applying organizations provide insight into the accomplishments of this fund, also known as the "Greatness Fund."

From 1978-1983 Branton served as Dean of the Howard University School of Law. This collection does not contain the files of his office, but his activities as Dean can be traced through his correspondence, writings, and newspaper clippings. After Branton resigned as Dean, he joined the Washington, D.C. office of Sidley & Austin where he continued to practice law until his death in 1988. The papers of Wiley Branton were donated to Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in 1989 by his wife, Ms. Lucille Branton, and daughter, Ms. Beverly Branton.

Biographical Sketch

Dec 13, 1923	Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Leo Andrew and Pauline (Wiley) Branton.
1941-1943	Enrolled in Arkansas A.M. & N. College
1943-1946	Drafted into Army as private and discharged as Master Sergeant. Attended Army Technical School in Boston, Mass.; served as battalion construction foreman for 10 months on Saipan and Okinawa. Served as Military Intelligence NCO.
1946-1962	President and General Manager of Branton Taxi Company, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
1948	Married Lucille McKee. They had 6 children.
1950	Earned BS from Arkansas A. M. & N. College
1950-1953	One of the first African-American students to enroll in University of Arkansas. Earned J.D. from School of Law.
1952-1962	Admitted to Arkansas Bar and practiced law in Pine Bluff, Ark; served as Chief Counsel for the plaintiffs in the Little Rock School case.
1962	Admitted to Georgia Bar.
1962-1965	Served as the first Executive Director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, GA.
1963	Employed as Executive Director of the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership, Inc.
1965	Chosen by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey to be Executive Secretary to the President's Council on Equal Opportunity.

1965-1967	Employed by the Department of Justice; assisted former Attorney Generals Nicholas Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark in the implementation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
1967	Admitted to D.C. Bar.
1967-1969	Served as Executive Director to the United Planning Organization, Washington, D.C.
1969-1971	Selected by Walter P. Reuther to direct the social action program of the Alliance for Labor Action, Washington, D.C.
1971-1978	Practiced law as Partner in Dolphin, Branton, Stafford & Webber.
1972-1974	Served as director of the Voter Registration Fund.
1977	Received Henry W. Edgarton award, ACLU.
1978-1983	Served as Dean of Howard University Law School.
1983-1988	Partner in the Washington Office of Sidley & Austin.
1986	Named Lawyer of the year by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.
1987	Received the Whitney North Seymour Award
December 15, 1988	Died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C. after a heart attack. He is buried in Bellwood Cemetery, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Series Description

Series A

Personal Papers

Box 187-1 to 187-2

Biographical information; educational material including 2 University of Arkansas yearbooks (1951 and 1952); bar exam results; letters of reference; and press releases highlight Branton's achievements in the fields of law and politics.

Series B

Correspondence

Box 187-2 to 187-10

The bulk of the collection, this series includes correspondence from Branton's legal practice, from his service as director of the Voter Registration Fund, and from his position as Dean of Howard University's School of Law. Included is correspondence with politicians such as Mayor Marion Barry, Senator Dale Bumpers, then-Governor Bill Clinton, and Hubert Humphrey, as well as with notable civil rights leaders including Daisy Bates, John Hope Franklin, Vernon Jordan. Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Walter White, and Roy Wilkins. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Correspondence transfered from series F, Voter Registration Fund, has been interfiled with the correspondence from this series.

Series C Box 187-10

to 187-12

Writings by Branton

The majority of this series is speeches that Branton presented at various functions throughout the United States; several refer to Branton's role in the Little Rock school desegregation case. Also included are tributes to a number of Branton's colleagues including Daisy Bates, Belford Lawson, Jr., Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and Roy Wilkins.

Series D

Writings About Branton

Box 187-12

Journal, magazine, and newspaper articles chronicle major landmarks in his legal and political careers as well as his appointment as Dean of the Howard University Law School. While there are a number of retrospective articles about his role in Little Rock, articles from the time of the case can be found in series J, Scrapbooks. Also of note are a number of articles from the 1970-1971 "Sandbar" rape case that Branton defended. All newspaper clippings have been photocopied for preservation purposes.

Series EBox 187-12 to 187-13

Writings by Others

This series contains published writings on civil and voter rights as well as speeches by Vernon Jordan and Andrew Young.

Series FBox 187-13 to 187-16

Voter Registration Fund

The Voter Registration Fund (VRF), or the "Greatness Fund," was a non-partisan organization created to provide funding to tax exempt organizations in support of voter registration activities. Branton served as Director of the Fund during its existence from 1972 to 1975. Included in this series is the final report of the VRF that provides an overview of its creation and activities. The bulk of this series consists of the papers created in the funding process; application material, organizational papers of applying organizations, reports, and printed material. The series is arranged alphabetically by applicant. Correspondence has been removed to series B, Correspondence.

Series GBox 187-16 to 187-18

Organizational Affiliations

This series includes reports and printed material of organizations that Branton was involved with. Of note is the President's Council on Equal Opportunity to which Branton served as Executive Secretary. Included is Branton's binder that contains reports a report from Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey on the coordination of civil rights activities in the Federal Government. Other organizations of note include the National Bar Association, the United States Department of Justice, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Series H

Box 187-18

Awards

Consists of material relating to two awards that Branton won; the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc. award, and the Whitney North Seymour Award that includes a speech by Vernon Jordan.

Series I

Box 187-18

Programs

Contains programs from events that Branton either attended or participated in. Of note is a 1958 flyer announcing a Wiley Branton speech; program material from a 1965 seminar on the American Negro Freedom Movement; programs from Branton's 1978 investiture as Dean of Howard University School of Law; and a 1979 program, "25 Years Since Brown."

Series J

Box 187-18

Scrapbooks

This series consists of two scrapbooks compiled by Branton. One of the scrapbooks is titled, "Voter Education Project," and the other includes several newspaper clippings regarding the Little Rock case. All the clippings have been photocopied for preservation purposes.

Container List

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	A	A Personal Papers, 1946-1988
Box 187-1	1	Biographical Data, 1965-1978, n.d.
	2	In Memoriam
	3	Press Releases, 1969-1983
	4	Educational, 1946-1952
		Yearbooks, 1951-1952
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Box 187-2	1	Military, 1946-1951
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	4	Wiley A. Branton Fund, 1949
	5	Nigeria Trip, 1973
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	8	Toni Branton Funeral, 1986
	F	B Correspondence , 1948-1988
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	10	Abram, Morris B.
	11	Abramson, Frederick B.
	12	Abron, Carolyn A. (niece)
	13	Adams, Oscar
	14	Addo, Kofi
	15	Alexander, Clifford L., Jr.
	16	Alexander, Harvey R.
	17	Alexander, Raymond Pace
	18	Alexander, William
	19	Allen, Archie
	20	Anderson, Donald (National Association for
		the Southern Poor)
	21	Anderson, James R.
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	23	Anthony, Beryl, Jr.
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	29	Averill, Lawrence H., Jr.
	30	Ba
	31	Be-Bi
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	8	Bentley, Lemuel
	9	Bernard, Nesta H.
	10	Bierbower, James J.
	11	Boggs, Roderick
	12	Boggs, Woodrow, Jr.
	13	Branton, Beverly L. (daughter)
	14	Branton, Estella (grandmother)
	15	Branton, Etter Lee (aunt)
	16	Branton, Gail (daughter)
	17	Branton, Leo, Jr.
	18	Branton, Richard (son)
	19	Branton, Sterling W.
	20	Brown, Ronald H.
	21	Bumpers, Dale
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	29	Eckford, Elizabeth
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	36	Fancher, Eric
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	39	Ferrell, H. Albion
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	3	Tucker, Sterling
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	36	Young, Gordon E.
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	38	Young, M. Wharton
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	2	A-Z
	3	Abram, Morris, Jr.
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	6	Kemble, Charlotte Roe
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	9	Marshall, Thurgood
	10	O'Brien, Lawrence F.
	11	Velasquez, William C.
	12	Westwood, Howard C.
	C	C Writings by Branton, 1963-1988
	13	"The Advancing Role of Black People in
		Politics," Draft of speech prepared
		for delivery at University of
		Arkansas - Fayetteville, February 17,
		1972.
	14	"Advice and Dissent," <u>Pine Bluff</u>
	1.5	Commercial, June 2, 1980.
	15	"Afro-Americans and the Evolution of a
	1.6	Living Constitution," March 15, 1988.
	16	"Bates, Daisy [Lee Gaston].", c. 1971.
	17	"The Black Presence in the Continuing
		American Revolution," Draft of
		remarks prepared for delivery for
		Sumter County YWCA, National Guard
		Armory, Sumter, South Carolina,
	10	September 19, 1976.
	18	"Brother Roy Wilkins as I Knew Him," n.d.
	19	"A Century of Christian Service Gives
		Courage to Foresee the Unforeseeable
		Future," Draft of speech at the 100th
		anniversary of Third Baptist Church,
		November 2, 1968.

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Box 187-10	20	"Clarence Mitchell, Jr.: The Impact of Pure Brass," January 27, 1976.
	21	"Commencement Program: Fort Hunt High School," Alexandria, Virginia, June 2, 1983.
	22	"Comments on the Constitution," June 22, 1987.
	23	"Competency? A Perspective from Academia," Remarks prepared for delivery at the District of Columbia Judicial Conference, June 12, 1981.
	24	"Continuing Challenges for Washington, the City-State," Remarks prepared for delivery at the 1983 D.C. Inaugural Breakfast, January 3, 1983.
	25	"The D.C. City Council Public Hearings of the Committee on the Judiciary to Explore Public Funding of Civil Legal Services for Indigent Persons in the District of Columbia," April 19, 1982.
	26	"The Effect of Brown v. Board of

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29

Education: A Retrospective Review," Address before the NAACP Legal Defense Fund 25th Anniversary dinner in commemoration of Brown v. Board

Research Office, Columbia University, 1973.

of Education, 1979.

Experts from Statement before the

February 22, 1972.

"Eisenhower Administration," Oral History

"The Future of the Black Man in Political Organizations," Draft of speech prepared for delivery at Georgia State University, Atlanta. Georgia,

Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the United States Senate, February 6, 1968.

Box	Folder	
	C Wi	ritings by Branton, continued
Box 187-10	30	"The History and Future of School Desegregation," Remarks prepared for delivery before the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas, July 25, 1985.
Box 187-11	1	"The History and Structure of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.," Prepared for use at the U.S./U.K. Civil Rights Enforcement Conference at Surrey University in England, September 11-13, 1981.
	2	"The Impact of the Constitution on Education," Draft of remarks prepared for delivery to Annual Judicial Conference of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, San Diego, California, July 31, 1987.
	3	"The Interaction of the Structure of Law and the Black Church," Draft of remarks to be delivered at the Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, December 1, 1977.
	4	"Justice William O. Douglas," Spring 1981.
	5	"Leadership - The Key to the Achievement of Goals," n.d.
	6	"Little Rock Revisited: Desegregation to Resegregation," Summer 1983.
	7	"The 152nd Anniversary of Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Old Georgetown," October 13, 1968.
	8	"Opening Statement Before the Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives, District of Columbia Subcommittee," April and May, 1988.
	9	"Personal Memories of Thurgood Marshall," [December, 1986].
	10	"Perspectives on Black Life and Culture in the 80's: The Impact of Crime," March 21, 1983.

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Box 187-11	11	"Post-War Race Relations in Pine Bluff," n.d.
	12	"Poverty and Black Entrepreneurship," n.d.
	13	"Race, the Courts, and Constitutional
		Change in the 19th and 20th Centuries," Draft of remarks to be delivered at a symposium of the
		Smithsonian Institution and the Joint Center for Political Studies, March 15, 1988.
	14	"Regarding the Available Pool of Women and
	14	Minorities for Judicial Appointment
		in the District of Columbia," Remarks
		before the Senate Judiciary
		Committee, February 2, 1988.
	15	"Registration and Voting in the South:
		Proposals for Congressional Action,"
		February, 1963.
	16	Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the
		Annual Dinner of the NAACP Legal
		Defense Fund and Educational Fund in
		Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary
		of the U.S. Supreme Decision in <u>Brown</u>
		v. <u>Board of Education</u> , [Final], May 17, 1979.
	17	Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the
		Annual Dinner of the NAACP Legal
		Defense Fund and Educational Fund in
		Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary
		of the U.S. Supreme Decision in <u>Brown</u>
		v. <u>Board of Education</u> , [Drafts], May 17, 1979.
	18	Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the
		Annual Luncheon Honoring Members of
		the Judiciary, United States
		Attorneys, and States Attorneys.
		National Bar Association, 42nd Annual
		Convention, Houston Texas, July 25,
		1967.

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		C 11	Titings by Dianton, Communica
Box 187-11	19		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Central Regional Meeting of the Links, Inc., Little Rock, Arkansas, July 3, 1987.
	20		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Commencement Exercises at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, May 20, 1973.
	21		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Honors Day Program, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, April 24, 1979.
	22		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Investiture of Judge Ricardo M. Urbina," April 20, 1981.
	23		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Judicial Conference for the D.C. Circuit, Williamsburg, Virginia, June 1, 1981.
	24	1	Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Luncheon Honoring Undergraduates, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity," August 15, 967.
	25	1	Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Memorial Services for the Late E. Fannie Granton, June 21, 1980.
	26		Remarks Prepared for Delivery on the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Admission of Silas Hunt to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, January 30, 1988.
	27		Remarks Prepared for Delivery in Support of the Nomination of Patricia M. Worthy, Esquire to Serve as a Member of the District of Columbia Public Service Commission, July 21, 1980.
	28		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the Thirteenth Annual Commencement Exercises of the Antioch School of Law, May 22, 1988.
	29		Remarks Prepared for Delivery at the

C Writings by Branton, continued

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Box 187-11		United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, March 17, 1980.
	30	"Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar: Education Program," August 13, 1979.
	31	Speech Prepared for Delivery at the Honors' Night Program, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, April 6, 1966.
	32	Speech Prepared for Delivery at Negro History Week Celebration at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, February 17, 1966.
	33	"Statement of Wiley A. Branton, Executive Director, UPO," June 27, 1968.
	34	"Symposium Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Little Rock Central High School Crisis," September 23, 1987.
Box 187-12	1	Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Committee on Education and labor, House of Representatives, March 3, 1982.
	2	Testimony in Support of the Nomination of the Honorable James E. Sheffield for United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Before the Senate Judiciary Committee, August 26, 1980.
	3	"A Tribute to Belford V. Lawson, Jr., Esq.," February 27, 1985.
	4	"A Tribute to Justice Thurgood Marshall," January 12, 1984.
	5	"Tribute to Justice Thurgood Marshall," Remarks prepared for delivery before the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, December 3, 1988.
	6	"The Urban Community and Its People: Their Role in Urban Policies and Programs," Remarks to be delivered at the dinner meeting of the Urban

D Writings About Branton, continued

	.	·· · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Box 187-12 7		Conference, "The Urban Challenge: The Management and Institutional Response," June 19, 1968. tled Speech, [First Celebration of Dr. MLK as a Federal Holiday], n.d. tled Fragments, n.d.
	D Writings	S About Branton, 1955-1989
	Artic	cles, 1972-1987
1.	5 "Adv	vancing the Role of Blacks," Stephan, Stephen. <u>Arkansas Alumnus</u> , June 1972, vol. 25, no. 16, p. 10-11.
1	6 "Bla	ck History Month Celebrated at the University," <u>Arkansas Alumnus</u> , February 1987, vol. 36, no. 3, p. 4-5.
1	7 "Civ	il Rights Lawyers Revisited," <u>Ebony</u> , December 1986., vol. 42, no. 2, p. 78-84.
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2	1 "Wil	ey A. Branton Named Dean of Law School," <u>Congressional Record -</u> <u>Senate S 19435</u> , December 7, 1977.
2	2 "Wil	ey A. Branton to be Honored at Banquet as 1986 Lawyer of the Year," The Bar Leader, Dec-Jan 1987, vol. 14, no. 3, p. 1-4.
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		D Writings About Branton, continued
Box 187-12	24	Law Reporter, November 26, 1986, vol. 114, no. 228, p. 2457-2459. "You Can Change Their Hearts," Adelman, Kenneth, The Washingtonian, March 1988, p. 107-114.
		Newspaper Clippings, 1955-1989
	25 26 27	1955-1970 1971-1979 1980-1989
		E Writings by Others, 1965-1986
Box 187-12	28	Adams, Frank, and Bob Hall, eds., "Just Schools: A Special Report Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Brown Decision," Southern Exposure, vol. 7, no. 2, May, 1979.
	29	Baskett, Tom., Jr., ed., <u>Persistence of</u> the Spirit: The Black Experience in Arkansas, 1986.
	30	Gellhorn, Ernest, "The Law Schools and the Negro," <u>Duke Law Journal</u> , December 1968.
	31	Hannah, John A., Chairman, United States Commission on Civil Rights, <u>The</u> <u>Voting Rights ActThe First Months</u> , 1965.
	32	Heiskell, J.N., ed., <u>Crisis in the South:</u> The <u>Little Rock Story</u> , n.d.
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Box 187-13	1	Nichols, Guerdon D., "Breaking the Color Barrier at the University of Arkansas, <u>Arkansas Historical</u> <u>Quarterly</u> , Spring 1968.
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F Voter Registration Fund, 1964-1977

Box 187-13		Folder 3	"Final Report of the Voter Registration Fund: or, Whatever Happened to the Greatness Fund?"
			Organizations
		4	A. Phillip Randolph Institute, 1971-1972.
		5-6	Citizen/Voter Research and Education Project, 1972.
		7 8 9-12	League of Women Voters, 1972. NAACP Special Education Fund, 1972. National Urban League, 1972-1975.
Box 187-14	1-6		Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, Inc., 1974-1980.
		7-10	Student Vote, 1972-1973.
Box 187-15		1 2	Student Vote, 1972-1973. U.S. Youth Council, 1971-1974.
			Voter Education Project, 1964-1977
		3 4 5-8	Application Material, 1972 History, n.d. Reports, 1964-1976
Box 187-16	1		Press Releases 1972
		2 3	1973 1974-1977
		4 5	Publications, 1972-1974 Pamphlets, n.d.
		6	Youth Citizenship Fund, 1971-1972

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	G Or	ganizational Affiliations, 1965-1987
Box 187-16	7 8 9	Alliance for Labor Action, 1971. American Bar Foundation, 1983. Anne Blain Harrison Institute for Public Law, 1979.
	10 11	Capital City Cable, n.d. Con Rail, 1981-1984.
Box 187-17	1	Earl Warren Legal Training Program, Inc., 1977.
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	4	National Association of Human Rights Workers, 1986.
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	2	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 1978.
	H Av	vards , 1983, n.d.
	3	D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc., October 15, 1983

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Box 187-18	4	Whitney North Seymour Award, n.d.
	I Prog	grams, 1955-1987
	5	1955-1959
	6	1964-1978
	7	November 18, 1978 - Investiture as Dean of Howard University Law School
	8	1979
	9	1980-1982
	10	1983-1987
	J Scra	apbooks, 1955-1970
	11	Scrapbook I, "Voter Education Project," c. 1960's
	12	Scrapbook II, 1957-1970 [Little Rock]