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LEON RANSOM PAPERS
Collection 173-1 to 173-15

Prepared by:
Helen Rutt
February 1995

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The papers of Leon Ransom (1900-1954), lawyer and educator, span the period from 1936 to 1948, and measure six linear feet. This collection primarily documents Ransom's career as an attorney. Ransom argued numerous cases, both in private practice and as a member of the N.A.A.C.P.'s legal staff. In 1931, after practicing law in Columbus, Ohio for four years, Ransom moved to Washington, DC. Among the subjects of Ransom's cases are educational and salary discrimination, jury exclusion, and race riots.

In addition to his work as a practicing attorney, Ransom served on the faculty of the Howard University School of Law. In 1941, after teaching for ten years, Ransom became Acting Dean of the School. He held this position until 1946, when the university appointed George Johnson to permanently assume the position. Ransom abruptly severed his affiliation with the university. The collection contains a copy of Ransom's letter of resignation to President Mordecai Johnson, a memo outlining problems with Ransom's leadership abilities, and newspaper clippings.

In 1946 Ransom founded the Chairman of the Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's Capital, an organization set on eliminating racial discrimination in Washington D.C. The collection includes minutes, correspondence, fliers, case material, and clippings concerning this organization's efforts.

In 1988 Mary Ransom Hunter donated the collection to Moorland- Spingarn.

Biographical Data

Leon Andrew Ransom

1900	Born to Charles and Nora Ransom in Zanesville, Ohio
1917	Graduated from Zanesville High School, Zanesville, Ohio
1920	Received B.S. degree from Wilberforce University
1923	Married Willa Carter; two children, Mary and Leon Jr.
1927	Graduated from Ohio State University Law School; first black at OSU to be elected to the Order of Coif, an honor law society
1927-1931	Practiced law in Columbus, Ohio
1931-1946	Rose from Instructor to Professor at Howard University School of Law
1934-1935	Recipient of a research fellowship from the Harvard University School of Law; received degree of Doctor of Juridical Science
1941-1946	Served as Acting Dean of the H.U. School of Law
1946-1949	Served as Chairman of the Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's Capital
1954 Aug. 25	Died

Source: Leon Ransom Papers, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Series F, Printed Material

Series Description

- Series A** **Personal and Family Papers**
Box 173-1 Includes programs and writings about Ransom, documents pertaining to his organizational affiliations, and photographs. Also contains correspondence and writings of Ransom's wife, Willa.
- Series B** **Correspondence**
Box 173-1
to Box 173-2 Consists mainly of professional correspondence between Ransom and attorneys, clients, activists, and government officials. Documents Ransom's roles within the N.A.A.C.P. and the Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's Capital. See also Series E, Cases, for correspondence emanating from Ransom's legal cases; see also Series D, N.A.A.C.P., for organizational correspondence.
- Series C** **Writings by Ransom**
Box 173-2 Includes speeches, articles, and an incomplete book manuscript, "Fiduciary Problems in Suretyship."
- Series D** **N.A.A.C.P.**
Box 173-2
to Box 173-3 Correspondence and press releases from both the national headquarters and D.C. Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. form most of this series. See also Series B, Correspondence, for Ransom's N.A.A.C.P. correspondence; see also Series E, Cases, for legal disputes in which the N.A.A.C.P. participated.
- Series E** **Cases**
Box 173-3
to Box 173-14 These files chronicle disputes in which Ransom participated or for which he accumulated documents, including correspondence, notes, briefs, transcripts, affidavits, and printed material. Some files contain only a single item. Among the issues addressed are teachers' salaries, transportation discrimination, and murder. Most cases are arranged alphabetically, either by plaintiff or issue. Because the issue of teacher salaries often addressed several cases within a school system, these files comprise a subseries, and are arranged geographically, at the end of the series. See also Series B, Correspondence, for a small amount of letters pertaining to legal disputes; see also Series F, Printed Material, for newspaper clippings concerning cases.

Series Description

Series F Printed Material

Box 173-14 Includes clippings, most of which highlight Ransom's legal cases and civil rights struggles.

Series G Restricted

Box 173-15 Contains materials that are closed to research either because of preservation or confidentiality concerns. Copies of items that are restricted due to physical deterioration are available in other parts of the collection.

Container List

Series A	Personal and Family Papers	
Box	Folder	
173-1	1	Business card
	2	Membership certificate - Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity 1941
	3	Programs on which Ransom's name appears no date, 1939, 1944-1947
	4	Programs on which Ransom's name appears 1948, 1958
	5	Writings about Ransom
	6	Financial papers 1939, 1946-1947
	7	National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital
	8	Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's Capital 1946-1948
	9	Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's Capital/ Council for Civil Rights in the Nation's Capital 1946-1948
	10	Joint Citizens' Committee of the District of Columbia
	11	Photographs
	12	Willa Ransom
	13	Willa Ransom - correspondence
	14	Leon Ransom III and Mary Ransom
Series B	Correspondence	
	15	A-B
	16	Carter, Robert L.
	17	C-D
	18	E-G
	19	H
	20	Hill, William A.
	21	Houston, Charles H.
	22	J-L
	23	M-P
	24	Marshall, Thurgood
	25	R
	26	S
	27	T-Z
173-2	1	White, Walter
	2	First names only, unidentified

Container List

Series C Writings by Ransom

Box	Folder	
173-2	3	Address to the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education of the City of Alexandria, Virginia
	4	Address to the President's Amnesty Board [re: Conscientious Objectors]
	5	Address re: Timing of Committee for Racial Democracy rally. Broadcast on "We Are Americans Too" radio program 18 May 1946
		<u>Fiduciary Problems in Suretyship [incomplete] 1934-1935</u>
	6	Special, Chapter 1
	7	Chapters 1-2
	8	Chapters 1-2
	9	Notes
	10	Notes
	11	Notes
	12	Notes
	13	Notes
	14	Interview with Ransom 19 May 1946
	15	"Negro History in the Making." Broadcast on radio program of the D.C. Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. 17 Feb. 1946
	16	"The Supreme Court Speaks." <u>New Negro Alliance Yearbook</u> (1939): 17-19.
	17	"Supreme Court Upholds Lloyd Gaines." <u>The American Teacher</u> 23(Jan. 1939): 14-17.
	18	Notes

Series D N.A.A.C.P.

19	List of outgoing mail from the N.A.A.C.P. Jan.-Feb. 1946
20	Correspondence no date, 1930, 1937
21	Correspondence 1939-1945
22	Correspondence 1946
23	Correspondence 1947
24	Office files

Container List

Series D	N.A.A.C.P. continued	
Box	Folder	
173-2	25	Affidavits, testimonies re: discrimination
	26	Financial papers
	27	Plans, reports
	28	Press releases 1946-1947 [D.C. Branch]
	29	Committees 1942-1947 [D.C. Branch]
173-3	1	Minutes of Executive Committee meetings 1946-1947 [D.C. Branch]
	2	Reports of the Legal Dept. 1942-1947
	3	Position papers, statements
	4	Press releases [National] Jan. 1942, Feb-July 1946
	5	Press releases [National] Aug. - Oct. 1946
	6	Pamphlets
Series E	Cases	
	7	Adamson v. People of the State of California - <u>Opinion of the Court</u> [in the Supreme Court of the U.S.] 1947
	8	A.M.E. Church members v. Davis 1947
	9	Bone v. State of Arkansas 1938-1939
	10	Bone v. State of Arkansas - <u>Brief of Appellants</u> [in the Supreme Court of Arkansas]
	11	Bradshaw v. Commonwealth of Virginia 1939
	12	Branch v. School Board of Greensville County [Virginia] 1941
	13	Braxter v. Hosey, Creel, Thompson - Complaint
	14	Canty v. State of Alabama 1940
	15	Carr v. Corning 1950
	16	Carruthers and Clayton v. Reed 1936-1939
	17	Carruthers and Clayton v. Reed - <u>Brief On Behalf of Appellants</u> [in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals]
	18	Chambers v. State of Florida 1939-1940
	19	Chambers v. State of Florida - briefs
	20	Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Burnam 1939
	21	Commonwealth of Virginia v. Turpin/Commonwealth of Virginia v. Johnson 1943
	22	Congress v. Clarke

Container List

Series E	Cases continued
Box	Folder
173-4	1 re: Conscientious objectors 1947
	2 re: Conscientious objectors 1947
	3 Davis v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia 1944
	4 Duffin v. Superintendent of the District of Columbia Jail 1947
	5 Fleming v. Cincinnati Union Terminal Co., Inc. [Reply brief only] 1940
	6 Freeman v. County School Board of Chesterfield County - Order
	<u>Grant and Pinckney v. State of South Carolina</u>
	7 Correspondence 1941
	8 Correspondence Jan. - April 1942
	9 Correspondence May - Nov. 1942
	10 Affidavits
	11 Cases and Exceptions/Supplemental Cases and Exceptions
	12 Briefs
	13 Briefs
	14 Briefs
	15 Worksheets
	16 Printed Briefs - <u>Appeal</u> [in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals] 1942/ <u>Brief in Opposition to Petition for Writ of Certiorari</u> [in the Supreme Court of the U.S.] Oct. Term 1941/ <u>Brief for Respondent [in the Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina]</u>
	17 <u>Population: Characteristics of the Population [of] South Carolina</u> 1941
	18 re: Greyhound and Trailways bus companies' discrimination 1946-1947
	<u>Hale v. Commonwealth of Kentucky</u>
	19 Office files no date
	20 Office files 1936
	21 Office files 1937
	22 Office files 1938
173-5	1 Office files 1939
	2 Office files 1940-1944
	3 Transcript 1936
	4 Briefs 1936-1937

Container List

Series E	Cases continued	
Box	Folder	
		<u>Hale v. Commonwealth of Kentucky</u>
173-5	5	Briefs 1936-1937
	6	Harold v. McShain 1942-1943
	7	Henderson v. E Street Theatre Corp. [National Theatre] 1946-1947
	8	Henderson v. The U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission and Southern Railway Co. 1950 [opinion only]
	9	Hill v. Capital Transit Co. 1944
	10	Hollins v. Oklahoma 1944-1945
	11	Kelly v. School Board of Surry County, Virginia - Final judgment 1947
	12	Kraemer v. Shelley [Opinion only] 1946
	13	Lane v. Wilson 1938-1939
	14	McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education... 1949 [opinion only]
	15	Mays v. Southern Railway Co. [opinions only] 1947
	16	Morgan v. State of Virginia - <u>Brief on Behalf of the</u> <u>Commonwealth</u> [in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia] 1944
	17	N.A.A.C.P. v. D.C. Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. 1937
	18	re: North Brentwood (MD) School overcrowding 1940-1942
	19	re: police brutality in Washington D.C. 1940-1947
	20	Redmond v. University of Tennessee 1936-1937
		<u>Robinson v. State of Alabama/</u>
		<u>Daniels v. State of Alabama</u>
	21	Office files 1942
	22	Office files 1943
	23	Briefs
	24	Motions
173-6	1	Bill of Exceptions [Robinson] 1941
	2	Brief and Argument on Behalf of Appellant [Robinson] 1942
	3	Brief and Argument on Behalf of Appellant [Robinson] 1942 [2 copies]
	4	Briefs [Robinson] 1942-1943
	5	Bill of Exceptions [Daniels] 1941

Container List

Series E	Cases continued
Box	Folder
173-6	6 Brief and Argument on Behalf of Appellant [Daniels] 1942 [2 copies]
	7 Briefs [Daniels] 1942-1943
	8 Simmons v. Board of Education of the City of Muskogee 1938
	9 Sipes v. McGhee - [Opinion only] 1947
	10 Smith v. Henderson 1940
	11 State of Louisiana v. Resweber 1946
	12 State of Maryland v. Taylor and Washington - transcript of testimony [pages 1-106] 1946
	13 State of Maryland v. Taylor and Washington - transcript of testimony [pages 107-215] 1946
173-7	1 State of Maryland v. Taylor and Washington - transcript of testimony [pages 216-319] 1946
	2 State of Missouri ex. rel. Bluford v. Canada 1939
	3 State of Missouri ex. rel. Gaines v. Canada 1937
	4 State of Missouri ex. rel. Gaines v. Canada 1939
	5 State of North Carolina ex. rel Tyler v. Kittrell College 1943
	6 State of Ohio v. Hill/Fletcher - office files 1946-1947
	7 State of Ohio v. Hill/Fletcher - transcript of testimony 1946
	8 State of South Carolina v. Bibbs, Baker and Patterson 1939
	<u>State of Tennessee v. Blair 1946</u>
	9 Jury lists
	10 Voir Dire Examinations
	11 Office files
	<u>Transcripts</u>
	12 Vol. 2 [pages 172-290]
	13 Vol. 2 [pages 291-393]
	14 Vol. 3
173-8	1 Vol. 4
	2 Vol. 5
	3 Vol. 6
	4 Vol. 7 [pages 1190-1290]
	5 Vol. 7 [pages 1291-1391]
	6 Vol. 7 [pages 1392-1503]

Container List

Series E Box	Cases continued Folder	
		<u>Transcripts</u>
173-8	7	Vol. 8 [pages 1504-1589]
	8	Vol. 9 [pages 1590-1674]
173-9	1	Vol. 9 [pages 1675-1770]
	2	Vol. 9 [pages 1771-1840]
	3	Vol. 9 [pages 1841-1901]
	4	Vol. 10 [pages 1902-2003]
	5	Vol. 10 [pages 2004-2104]
	6	Vol. 10 [pages 2105-2200]
	7	Argument to the Jury
	8	Closing Argument of Attorney General Bumpus to the Jury
		<u>State of Tennessee ex. rel. Michael v. Witham</u>
	9	Notes
	10	Correspondence no date, 1939
173-10	1	Correspondence Jan. - May 1940
	2	Correspondence June - Dec. 1940
	3	Correspondence 1941
	4	Correspondence Jan. - Oct. 1942
	5	Correspondence Nov. - Dec. 1942
	6	Correspondence 1943
	7	Briefs re: history of higher education in Tennessee
	8	Opinions
	9	Demurrers and Answers
	10	Orders and Motions
	11	Petitions for Mandamus
	12	Amended Petitions for Mandamus
	13	Briefs
	14	Briefs
173-11	1	<u>Reply Brief of Appellees</u> [in the Supreme Court of Tennessee] Sept. Term, 1942
	2	Pamphlets re: practicing law in Tennessee
	3	<u>Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee</u> 1934
	4	<u>Docket of Cases, Supreme Court</u> Sept. Term, 1942
	5	Stephens v. Biggs [complaint only] 1947
	6	Sweatt v. Painter 1948-1949

Container List

Series E Box	Cases continued Folder	
		<u>Texas Primary Cases</u>
173-11	7	Office files
	8	Briefs
	9	Printed briefs - <u>Brief of Appellant</u> and <u>Petition for Rehearing</u> [in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals] 1942
	10	Printed briefs - <u>Brief for Petitioner</u> and <u>Petitioner's</u> <u>Appendices</u> [in the Supreme Court of the U.S.] Oct. Term, 1943
	11	U.S. v. Bullock 1946
	12	U.S. v. Johnson, Price, and Smith 1946
	13	re: Virginia bus incident/Howard Univ. students
	14	Ward v. Texas 1942
	15	Ward v. Texas - Briefs Oct. Term, 1941
		<u>Washington v. State of Arkansas</u>
	16	Transcript 1947
	17	Office files 1947-1948
	18	Petitions, briefs 1947
173-12	1	Printed briefs 1947-1948
	2	Weaver v. Ohio State University 1933-1934
		<u>Wellman v. Moore</u>
	3	Office files no date, 1941
	4	Office files Feb. - Nov. 1942
	5	Office files Dec. 1942
	6	Office files 1943
	7	White v. State of Texas - record of proceedings 1939
	8	White v. State of Texas - office files 1938-1940
	9	Williams v. Stimson 1940
	10	Williams v. Zimmerman 1936
	11	Wright v. Barry
	12	Yoshida v. Gelbert Improvement Co. [opinion only] 1946
		<u>Teacher Salaries</u>
	13	Supporting material
	14	Arkansas [Little Rock]

Container List

Series E	Cases continued	
Box	Folder	
		<u>Teacher Salaries</u>
173-12	15	Florida
	16	Indiana [Jeffersonville]
	17	Kentucky [Louisville]
	18	Maryland
	19	Maryland
	20	Maryland - correspondence 1936-April 1940
	21	Maryland - correspondence May 1940-1942
173-13		Maryland - printed material
	2	Maryland - <u>Maryland Public School Laws</u> 1927
	3	Maryland [Anne Arundel Co.]
	4	Maryland [Anne Arundel Co.]
	5	Maryland [Anne Arundel Co.] - correspondence 1939
	6	Maryland [Anne Arundel Co.] - correspondence 1940-1943
	7	Maryland [Anne Arundel Co.] - briefs
	8	Tennessee [Nashville] - correspondence, depositions
	9	Tennessee [Nashville] - briefs
	10	Virginia [Arlington]
	11	Virginia [Newport News] - office files 1941-1942
	12	Virginia [Newport News] - office files 1943
	13	Virginia [Newport News] - office files 1944
	14	Virginia [Norfolk] - office files
	15	Virginia [Norfolk] - office files
173-14	1	Virginia [Norfolk] - office files
	2	Virginia [Norfolk] - clippings
	3	Virginia [Norfolk] - printed briefs
	4	Virginia [Richmond] 1941-1942
	5	Virginia - <u>Virginia School Laws</u> 1936
Series F	Printed Material	
	6	<u>Post-War Problems</u> by Agnes Meyer. 1946
	7	<u>The Social Survey: A Report on Racial Relations</u> 1946

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Series F	Printed Material	continued
Box	Folder	
		<u>Clippings</u>
173-14	8	Personal and family
	9	Awards and tributes
	10	Howard University
	11	"I Am an American Day" rally
	12	N.A.A.C.P. conferences
	13	U.S. military
	14	Desegregation
	15	Desegregation
	16	Desegregation
	17	Desegregation - Washington, DC theatres
	18	Desegregation - Washington, DC theatres
	19	Criminal cases
	20	Crawford trial 1933
	21	Tennessee riot trial (State of Tennessee v. Blair) 1946
	22	Tennessee riot trial (State of Tennessee v. Blair) 1946
	23	Tennessee riot trial (State of Tennessee v. Blair) 1946
Series G	Restricted	
173-15	Telegrams	
	Cases	