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Blake, Jr, Elias

DPAAC Staff

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**Guide to the Elias Blake Jr. Papers  
DCAAP.0068**

**Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,  
Howard University Collection Number 251  
Finding aid prepared by D.C. Africana Archives Project**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

December 14, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project  
Gelman Library  
Special Collections, Suite 704  
2130 H Street NW  
Washington DC, 20052

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	DC Africana Archives Project
<b>Title</b>	Elias Blake Jr. Papers
<b>Date</b>	1950-2004
<b>Extent</b>	171.25 Cubic feet
<b>Location note</b>	This collection is part of the holdings of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, 500 Howard Place, NW, Washington, DC 20059. Please contact them for information on accessing these materials.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Elias Blake Jr. was a president of Clark College and Howard University, and a legal scholar and lifelong advocate for African-Americans in higher education. Among his papers are legal files, supreme court decisions, legal correspondence, files from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, research files on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, educational reports, clippings, articles, and books on education. Of note are Blakes files on the Ayers v. Fordice case, which forced Mississippi to find ways to further desegregate the university system in the state.

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## Biographical/Historical note

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Elias Blake, Jr. was born on December 13, 1929 in Brunswick, Georgia to Ruth and Elias Blake, Sr. Blake's parents died by the time he was twelve, leaving him to be raised by his grandmother. In 1947, Blake graduated from Risley High School. Blake enrolled in Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, graduating in 1951 with a degree in History. An active college student, Blake served as student government president, was an all-conference athlete in basketball and football, and was the Valedictorian of his graduating class. After serving in the US Army, Blake earned an M.A. from Howard University in 1954 and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1959. Blake returned to Howard University to serve as an assistant professor of education from 1959-1966. For the remainder of his career, Blake served in higher education positions throughout the U.S. Blake became the Southeastern Regional Director of Upward Bound, Institute for Services to Education, Inc. (ISE), a program introducing young high school students to collegiate life and culture. Moving up in the ranks at ISE, Blake served as the Director of Evaluation and as President of the institute throughout the 1960s and 1970s. After the ISE dissolved, Blake founded the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), which served to support the ongoing development of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In 1970, Blake published a groundbreaking paper for Congressional testimony regarding the impact of HBCUs in the development of Black students. At the time, HBCUs produced the large majority of Black physicians, PhDs, federal officials, military personnel and lawyers in the nation. Blake organized the first ever meeting with a sitting President, Richard Nixon, and several presidents of HBCUs. ISE and NAFEO were directly involved in the distribution of over 500 million dollars to HBCUs in the 1960s and 1970s. Blake served as President of Clark College (now Clark-Atlanta University) in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1977-1987. Returning to Washington, D.C. and Howard University in the late 1980s, Blake became the Director of Higher Educational Policy Research. In the 1990s, Blake was President of the Benjamin E. Mays National Educational Resource Center, an organization researching the inequalities of education in the country. Later in the 1990s, Blake was an independent consultant for a desegregation cases, including the Ayers v. Fordice case forcing Mississippi to find ways to further desegregate the university system in the state. Blake was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Elias Blake Jr. papers document Blake's career as a lawyer and advocate for higher education. Among his papers are legal files, supreme court decisions, legal correspondence, files from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, research files on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, educational reports, clippings, articles, and books on education. Of note are Blakes files on the Ayers v. Fordice case, which forced Mississippi to find ways to further desegregate the university system in the state.

## **Arrangement note**

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This collection is arranged in original order. Please consult repository for details.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

DC Africana Archives Project

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of Elias Blake Jr., 2000.

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## **General note**

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This is a collection-level finding aid. Please consult the repository for a container list.