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Bryant, William

DPAAC Staff

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**Guide to the William Bryant Papers  
DCAAP.0044**

**Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,  
Howard University Collection Number xxx**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by D.C. Africana Archives Project**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 09, 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>	William Bryant Papers
<b>Date</b>	1911-2005
<b>Extent</b>	12.0 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>	William Bryant was a graduate of Howard School of Law, who joined the firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner in 1954. Bryant was well-known for successfully arguing the case of <i>Mallory v. United States</i> , 354 U.S. 499 (1957) before the Supreme Court. In doing so, he earned an appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 1965, and in 1977 became Chief Judge, serving until 1981. he collection includes correspondence, publications, photographs, ephemera, artifacts (predominantly awards). Also included is Bryant's correspondence during his time serving in the army in World War II.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Honorable William Benson Bryant was born in Wetumpka, Alabama, on September 18, 1911. Shortly after his birth, his parents moved the family to Washington, D.C. to escape racial violence directed at his grandfather, who owned his own business. The family moved into a home in Anacostia on old Benning Road. Bryant attended segregated public schools in the District, including Dunbar High School. After graduating from high school, Bryant entered Howard University, earning his undergraduate degree in 1932, and his law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1936. Bryant served as research assistant for Dr. Ralph Bunche, one of the social scientists who worked with Dr. Gunnar Myrdal on U.S. race relations. His appointment with Dr. Bunche ended in 1940, after which Bryant served in the United States Army at the rank of Lt. Colonel. In the early 1950s, Bryant returned to the District to practice law. He joined the firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner in 1954. Bryant was well-known for successfully arguing the case of *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 499 (1957) before the Supreme Court. In doing so, he earned an appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 1965, and in 1977 became Chief Judge, serving until 1981. In addition to his service to the district courts and his private practice, Bryant was an adjunct professor who taught Trial Advocacy at Howard University School of Law from 1965-1991. Bryant was also awarded honorary degrees from both Georgetown University and Bard College. Students, professors and lawyers held him in high regard. Bryant passed away on November 14, 2005.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The William Bryant Papers document Bryant's law career, his time at Howard School of Law, involvement in civic activism, and his work with Dr. Ralph Bunche. The collection includes correspondence, publications, photographs, ephemera, artifacts (predominantly awards). Also included is Bryant's correspondence during his time serving in the army in World War II.

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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 Astaire Bryant, 2009.

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
American Inn of Court Docs. ca. 1980s	1	14
The American Inns of Court Foundation Award 1998	2	26
American Law Institute ca. 1990s	1	11
Articles & Docs. Regarding Ralph Bunche ca. 1970s	2	1
Artifact- 60th Anniversary of Graduation from Howard Law 1996	12	27
Artifact- Afro-American Award 1953	5	9
Artifact- AJC Award undated	5	8
Artifact- Alpha Phi Alpha Carving-Signed undated	6	4
Artifact- Certificate of Appointment as Assistant U.S. Attorney 1951	11	8
Artifact- Certificate of Appointment as Attorney to Supreme Court undated	11	5
Artifact- Certificate of Appointment to Court of Appeals 1953	11	7

Artifact- Certificate of Appointment to District Court 1949	11	9
Artifact- Certificate of Appreciation from DC Circuit Court 1982	12	13
Artifact- Certificate of Appreciation from DC Government 1973	12	12
Artifact- Certificate of Bryant as Officers' Reserve Corps. 1949	12	16
Artifact- Certification of Bryant as Member of DC Board of Higher Education 1967	12	17
Artifact- DC Bar William J. Brennan Jr. Award 1996	12	23
Artifact- DC Public Service Award 1966	12	18
Artifact- DC Public Service Award 1965	12	19
Artifact- DC School of Law Honorary Degree 1993	12	26
Artifact- Democracy in Sports Award 1965	5	2
Artifact- Distinguished Alumni Award 1976	5	11
Artifact- Distinguished Service Certificate The American Legion 1966	12	22
Artifact- Federal Judicial Center Award Jean F. Dwyer 1978	6	3



Artifact- Federal Judicial Center Award William Bryant 1978	6	2
Artifact- Harpers Weekly 1911	12	24
Artifact- Honorary Degree from Georgetown undated	12	25
Artifact- Honorary Member of the Bar Association of DC 1966	12	14
Artifact- HU Alumni Award 1967	4	1
Artifact- HU Law School Award 1981	4	4
Artifact- International Association of Probate Judges Certificate 1972	5	7
Artifact- Junior Citizens Corps. Inc. Achievement Award 1976	12	21
Artifact- Justice Byron R. White Award 1969-70	5	4
Artifact- Martin Luther King Jr. Award HU School of Law 1977	4	7
Artifact- Medium Photo of Bryant and other Judges undated	12	2
Artifact- Mental Health Achievement Award 1981	5	3
Artifact- Misc. Graduation Rope undated	6	5
Artifact- National Association of Probate Judges Certificate 1972	5	6

Artifact- Phi Beta Kappa Certification 1978	12	20
Artifact- Photo Album of Bryant Receiving Houston Award 1977	11	1
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and Black Judges 1984	12	7
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and District Court Judges 1965	12	3
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and Graduation Ceremony undated	12	9
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and Other Judges undated	12	4
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and President LBJ 1968	12	6
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and Various Judges undated	12	5
Artifact- Photo of Bryant and Various Judges undated	12	8
Artifact- Photo of Chief Judge Leo A Rover and his Assistant Attorney's 1956	12	15
Artifact- Photo of Georgetown Law Center Commencement Ceremony 1974	11	6
Artifact- Photo of Supreme Court Justices undated	11	3
Artifact- Resolution US District Court 1965	12	28

Artifact- Robert A. Shuker Memorial Award 1995	4	2
Artifact- Signed Copy of Forbidden Fairways by Calvin Sinnette 1998	11	2
Artifact- Signed Photo of Hubert Humphrey undated	12	11
Artifact- Signed Photo of President LBJ 1968	12	10
Artifact- Speech by Vice President LBJ " On These Hollowed Grounds" 1963	11	4
Artifact- Stuart Stiller memorial Award 1980	5	10
Artifact- The Bar Association of DC Award 1981	4	6
Artifact- The Bar Association of DC Judicial Honoree Award 1995	4	3
Artifact- The Bureau of Rehab of the National Capital Area 1979	4	5
Artifact- The National Patent Law Association's Award 1978	5	1
Artifact- Washington D.C. Hall of Fame 2002	6	6
Artifact- Washingtonians of the Year 1975	5	5
Artifact-Large Photo of Bryant and other Judges undated	12	1

Artifact-Letter and Rope for Bard College Graduation 1984	6	1
Artifacts- Appointment Books/ Calendars 1965-1987	8	1
Artifacts- Appointment Books/Calendars 1978-1999	7	1
Artifacts- Appointment Books/Calendars 2000-2005	9	1
Bar Association of DC-94th Annual Dinner 1965	2	16
Bar Examinations 1950s-1960s	3	7
Bicentennial Symposium Transcript 2001	1	12
Bryant Joins H, H, & W 1954	2	20
Bryant- Legal Materials 1970s-1980s	3	12
Bryant Memorabilia undated	3	21
Bryant Photos 1 of 3 ca. 1960s-2000s	3	23
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Bryant Remarks at Memorial for Charlie Horsky 1997	2	14

Bureau of Rehab- 50 yrs of Service Program 1980	2	22
Certificates ca. 1960s- 2000s	2	19
Charles Hamilton Houston Symposium 1993	2	15
Correspondence ca. 1960s-2000s	2	17
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Correspondence 2 of 3 1970s-1990s	1	2
Correspondence 3 of 3 1970s-1990s	1	3
Correspondence- Becoming Chief Judge 1977	1	5
Correspondence- Becoming District Judge 1965	1	7
Correspondence- Judge Edward Allen Tamm ca. 1960s-1970s	1	4
Correspondence- Retirement 1980s	1	6
Crisis at Federal City College ca. 1960s	1	20

D.C. Circuit Historical Society 2004	1	21
D.C. School Board Docs. ca. 1960s	1	17
DC Circuit Court Bicentennial Celebration Program 2001	1	13
Dedication Ceremony (Audiotape) May 24th 1978	2	23
Drug Addiction and Mental Illness Documents 1960s-1970s	1	15
Dunbar High School 50th Anniversary Program 1978	2	11
Funeral Service for LBJ 1973	2	21
Georgetown Univ. Law Commencement 1974	3	13
Greeting Cards 1970s-1990s	1	8
Honorary Degree- UDC 1983	2	27
Howard Law Docs. 1970s-1990s	1	22
HU Alumni Affairs Documents ca. 1970s	2	3
HU Alumni Award 1967	2	28
HU Law Programs 1960s-1970s	2	18

HU Resolution Recognizing Bryant Death 2005	2	25
Introduction of Judge Bryant at D.C. Bar Awards Dinner 1996	1	9
James F. Davey- Testimony 1980	1	10
Judge Bryant Funeral Program 2005	3	11
Judge Bryant Stationery undated	3	14
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Judge Bryant's Law Clerks 1965-2005	3	6
Judge William Bryant Memorial Newsclippings ca. 2005	3	4
Law Firm Case Material ca. 1963	1	29
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Mallory v. United States ca. 1950s	2	24
Memorial Programs-William Hastie & Spottswood Robinson ca. 1970s-1990s	3	15
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National Committee on Segregation in DC ca.1946	2	5
"The Negro Soldier" Military Training Division ca. 1940s	3	8
Negro Troops During WWII ca. 1940s	2	6
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Pamphlets and Newsletters 1960s-1980s	1	27
Phi Beta Kappa ca. 1970s	2	13
Photos of Bryant Family ca. 1990s-2000s	3	10
Photos of Judge Bryant n/a	2	4



Photos- Soliders at Fort Lewis ca. 1940s-1950s	3	3
Presentation of a Portrait- Judge Bryant ca. 1980's	2	2
Publication- A New Look at Confessions by B. James George Jr. 1967	10	4
Publication- American History Superintendent of Documents 1966	10	12
Publication- American Law Institute A Model Code of Pre-Arrestment Procedure 1975	10	2
Publication- American Law Institute A Model Code of Pre-Arrestment Procedure (Draft- 1) 1972	10	7
Publication- American Law Institute A Model Code of Pre-Arrestment Procedure (Draft- 3) 1970	10	8
Publication- Annual Law Day Dinner Washington Bar Association 1977	10	15
Publication- Committee on Laws Pertaining to Mental Disorders Final Report Vol. I 1970	10	9
Publication- Committee on Laws Pertaining to Mental Disorders Final Report Vol. II 1970	10	10
Publication- Committee on Laws Pertaining to Mental Disorders Final Report Vol. III 1970	10	11

Publication- Congressional Record 88th Congress First Session 1963	10	13
Publication- Federal Supplement Portrait of William Bryant 1980	10	1
Publication- Killough v. U.S. 1964	10	14
Publication- Report and Recommendations of the Commissioners' Committee on Police Arrests for Investigation 1962	10	5
Publication- United States Reports Vol. 354 1956	10	3
Publication- US Court of Appeals Killough v U.S. 1962	10	6
Ralph Bunche Documentary ca. 2000s	2	9
Regional Rail Reorganization Act Docs. ca. 1990s	1	16
Sigma Delta Nu-Legal Fraternity ca. 1970s	2	8
Tom Clark Document 1978	2	10
U.S. v. Safavian-Transcript 2005	3	1
Washington Bar Assoc. Docs. ca. 1970s	2	12
White House Conference- List of Participants 1966	1	24

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White House Conference- Program 1966	1	25
White House Conference- Speeches June 1-2 1966	1	23
William Bryant- WWII ca. 1940s	2	7
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