



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

## Guide to the Law Department records

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett

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<b>Repository:</b>	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
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## Historical note

The Office of Attorney and Solicitor was established by ordinance passed on June 18, 1827. The Office of City Attorney was abolished by ordinance passed April 29, 1846. The ordinance passed March 30, 1881 established the Office of Corporation Counsel and Office of City Solicitor. Known as the Law Department, it was jointly under the charge of the Corporation Counsel and City Solicitor. The Office of City Solicitor was abolished and the department placed under sole charge of the Corporation Counsel by the ordinance which went into effect on July 1, 1904.

The Corporation Counsel has supervisory authority over all City attorneys and legal affairs. The Law Department has general charge of all the City's legal affairs, and represents the City of Boston and the County of Suffolk in all litigation to which they are a party. The Department provides a comprehensive array of legal services: formal and informal opinions to the Mayor, the City Council, the Boston School Committee, and City or County Officials and other employees in matters relating to the discharge of their official duties; and representation for these individuals and entities in litigation of all types. Additionally, the Law Department reviews all City and County contracts, pursues claims on behalf of the City through affirmative litigation, initiates foreclosure proceedings on tax delinquent properties, and conducts a program which provides technical assistance to citizens and others with problems concerning immigration, residency status and naturalization.

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## Scope and Contents note

This collection includes files kept by the City's Law Department on various issues, cases, questions that came before the department during the 20th century. Significant issues, etc. represented in this collection include the Cocoanut Grove Fire, West End Redevelopment, World War, City Real estate holdings, gifts to the city, bridge construction, City Hospital, City Hall construction and many others. The first series includes a numbered reference file that was kept by the Law Department from the early 1900s-1960s. A card index for these files is included and there are gaps in the numbering of the files. The topics include various cases and issues that came before the Law Department. Other series include files on bequests, bridges, contracts, litigation, real estate and railroads. Files kept by William H. Kerr, the senior legal researcher in the Law Department from the 1930s-1970 are also included. He is perhaps responsible for the maintenance of these files in the Law Department. The bulk of the material in this collection dates from 1908-1970. Related series include Law Department correspondence, Legal Opinions and litigation files on major cases.

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 36 Bernard J. McGovern Trust, 1970  
 36 Trust u/w/o Helen C. Morrison, 1972-1973  
 36 Jonathan Mason Fund (169), 1931-1934  
 36 Theodore B. Moses Will - Park Dept. (162), 1934-1947  
 36 Estate of Agnese May Murphy, 1940  
 36 Will of Emanuel Nathan, 1947  
 37 Estate of Ellen F. O'Connor, 1943-1944  
 37 Estate of Charles O'Flaherty, 1947-1952  
 37 Petition of Frederick O. Payson, 1943  
 37 Henry C. O'Brien - Will (152), 1935  
 37 Randidge Trust Fund, 1945  
 37 Ann R. Richards (75), 1925  
 37 Estate of Ella W. Risteen, 1942  
 37 Julia M. Robey - Bequest (94), 1925  
 37 Estate of Mary J. Robinson, 1942-1943  
 37 Estate of Annie M. E. Russell - Mt. Hope Cemetery, 1948  
 37 Dr. Sears Bust - Bashka Paeff (144), 1932-1937

- 37 Shakespeare - Emerson Fund, 1970
- 37 Estate of Lizzie C. Shirley, 1943
- 37 Abraham Shuman, 1929-1952
- 37 Estate of Samuel Sigilman (412), 1939-1943
- 37 Will of Clara R. Simonson, 1946
- 37 Sophia Joanna Snow Will, 1948
- 37 Will of Frieda S. Tavbert - Bequest to Library, 1961-1969
- 37 Taussig Fund (150), 1935-1968
- 37 Estate of Maria H. Thacher, 1942
- 37 George L. Thorndike Fund, 1950
- 37 Will of Eugene Tompkins, 1948
- 37 Charles H. Tyler Fund (288), 1932-1955
- 37 Will of Charles G. Weld, 1945-1950
- 37 Estate of Isabella White - Interest of City in, 1945
- 37 Wiggin Fund, 1969
- 37 Will of H. Sylvia A. H. G. Wilks (689), 1951-1954

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**Series IV: Bridge files, 1912-1950 (2.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

- 39 Albany Street Bridge (300), 1929-1938
- 39 Larz Anderson Bridge - Payment to Commissioners (8), 1912
- 39 Arlington St. Bridge (137), 1931-1932
- 39 Ashland St. Bridge, Alteration of (91), 1926-1928
- 39 Beacon St. Bridge (115), 1921-1926
- 39 Bennington St. Bridge (16), 1917
- 39 Blakemore St. Bridge (623), 1950
- 39 Boston St. Bridge (96), 1927
- 39 Broadway Bridge (41), 1926-1943
- 39 Brookline Avenue Bridge (10), 1916-1926
- 39 Cambridge St. Bridge (116), 1921-1922
- 40 Chelsea Bridge (Special folder no. 19), 1914-1934
- 39 Chelsea North Bridge and Meridian St. Bridge, 1931-1945
- 39 Clarendon St. Bridge (31), 1919
- 39 Columbus Ave. Bridge (92), 1927-1935
- 39 Dartmouth St. Bridge (51), 1924-1945
- 39 East River St. Bridge, Hyde Park (88), 1922-1927
- 39 Everett St. Bridge, East Boston, 1941
- 40 Everett St. and Saratoga St., 1941
- 40 Geneva Ave. Bridge (102), 1928
- 40 Hyde Park Ave. Bridge - Removal of by NY, NH & H. RR, 1940-1941
- 40 Market St. Bridge (104), 1928
- 40 Massachusetts Ave. Grade Crossing - Alterations (28), 1918

40	Massachusetts Ave. Bridge - N.Y., N.H. & Hartford R.R. (70), 1925
40	Meridian St. Bridge (258), 1937-1947
40	Morton St. Bridge (93), 1928
40	Norfolk St. Bridge (20), 1918-1925
40	Parsons St. Bridge - Brighton, 1939-1941
40	Shawmut Ave. Bridge (126), 1929
40	Southampton St. Bridge (27), 1918
40	Walworth St. Bridge (18), 1917-1918
40	West First Street - Abolition of Grade (26), 1918-1920
40	West Newton St. Bridge (79), 1926

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**Series V: Contract related files, circa 1930s-1950s (3.0 Cubic feet)**

Box	
41	Miscellaneous contract files, circa 1930s-1950s
42	Miscellaneous contract files, circa 1930s-1950s
43	Miscellaneous contract files, circa 1930s-1950s
43	P.W.A. projects, circa 1930s

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**Series VI: Real Estate files, circa 1920-1970 (Bulk, 1940-1960) (3.0 Cubic feet)**

Box	
44	Apple Island
44	Baker St. Bridge
44	Belgrade Ave. Bridge
44	Boston Common
44	City Hall title
44	Colwell Ave.
44	Commonwealth Avenue esplanade and colonnade
44	Commonwealth Avenue underpass
44	Commonwealth Avenue restrictions
44	Congress st. passageway from Edison Building
44	Deer Island (wall at)
44	Dorchester Heights
44	Dorchester High School for Girls
44	Edmund's Wharf
44	Fallon Field
44	Health Unit notes (Blossom and Parkman Sts.)
44	Hersey, Heloise
44	Hilltop St. lease (school)
44	Horace Mann School

44 Introne, Rudolph E.  
44 Jamaicaway underpass  
44 Jamaicaway  
44 Jones Avenue Footway  
44 K St. (papers relating to fire station)  
44 Kearsarge Association of Naval Veterans  
44 Kirley, William T.  
44 Kitchen, Willard R.  
44 Kenmore Hotel  
44 Hemenway School King St.  
44 Kravetsky lease (B.E.R.R. Co.)  
44 LaGrange St. Police Station  
44 LaGrange St.  
44 Landers, Mary  
44 Lang, James S. trust  
44 Leases  
44 Longfellow Bridge  
44 Marine Rd. (Columbus Associates)  
44 McCormick Case 10 Charles St. lease  
44 McGraw Footway (West Roxbury)  
44 Madison Park  
44 Malion, James 3-5 Woodman St.  
44 Market leases  
44 Marion St. firehouse  
45 Mariposa St. Hyde Park  
45 Mason St. - Sale of School property  
45 Mass. General Hospital (Olympic Realty) Province St.  
45 Menorah Institute (lease)  
45 Merrimac St. - Title under Thorndike Trust  
45 Milton, Town of  
45 Mosquito Eradication  
45 Mohawk St.  
45 Mt. Washington Ave. Bridge  
45 Mt. Vernon St. - Transit Dept. grant of easement to NY, NH & H. R.R.  
45 Mulligan, Thomas A.  
45 Myles Standish Inc. v. Johnson  
45 National Dock & Warehouse Co. v. City of Boston Lewis St. East Boston  
45 New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad (4 folders)  
45 North Beacon St. (2 folders)  
45 Ophir Street  
45 Orient Heights, East Boston - Sale of Standpipe  
45 Overseers of the Public Welfare Longwood Ave.  
45 Overseers of the Public Welfare Charity Building  
45 Police Station No. 2 - transfer of title

45	Police Station No. 6 South Boston
45	Police Station No. 4 LaGrange St.
45	Police Station 82 Joy St.
45	Police Station No. 12
45	Printing Plant (Transit Dept.)
45	Public Library Lamartine St.
45	Pulpit Rock
45	Preston, Daniel fund
45	Sargent's Wharf
45	Shirley-Eustis House - Right to charge admission fee
45	Smith Belknap Street School
45	Snow Removal from RR Bridges
45	South Boston Industrial Track
45	Spectacle Island - Boston Harbor
45	Squantum - Land of City of Boston sewer taking
45	Ufford St. - Abandonment of Sewer Easement
80	Miscellaneous real estate files

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**Series VII: Litigation files, circa 1930s-1990 (15.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

46	Boston Consolidated Gas Company case, circa 1930s-1940s
47	
48	Boston Port Development Company, circa 1940s-1950s
78	Boston Terminal Corporation, circa 1960s
49	Caputo case: Suffolk County Courthouse, circa 1960s-1970s
50	Charles Street Jail investigation, circa 1970s
51	
52	Devonshire Street Water Main Break, circa 1954-1955
53	
54	Dolan case, circa 1930s
55	Food Stamp case, circa 1940s
56	Pier Storage, circa 1930s
57	Public Works Department cases, circa 1940s-1950s
58	
85	Clair v. Rent Equity Board, 1989-1990

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**Series VIII: Boston City Hospital files, circa 1970s (3.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

59	Boston City Hospital related files, circa 1970s
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- 60 Coordinating Council on Drug Abuse, circa 1970s
- 61 Human Studies Committee, circa 1970s

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**Series IX: Boston Redevelopment Authority files, circa 1960s-1970s (4.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

- 62 B.R.A. related files, circa 1960s
- 63 B.R.A. related publications, circa 1960s
- 64 Park Plaza, circa 1971
- 84 Government Center Commission and B.R.A. related files, circa 1960-1965

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**Series X: William H. Kerr files, circa 1930-1970 (4.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

- 65 Abandoned automobiles
- 65 Appropriations
- 65 Architects' contracts
- 65 Auditorium
- 65 Automatic Amusement Devices
- 65 Bankruptcy
- 65 Beacon Hill Architectural Commission
- 65 Betterment Assessments, Discharge of
- 65 Bids
- 65 Blood Transfusions
- 65 Bond Issues
- 65 Boston Common
- 65 Budget
- 65 Building Code
- 65 Building Code amendments
- 65 Building Razing Lien, Discharge of
- 65 Castle Island
- 65 Census
- 65 Citizens Council
- 65 City Charters (Former)
- 65 City Clerk
- 65 City Council
- 65 Civilian Defense
- 65 Civil Rights
- 65 Civil Service
- 65 Classification and Compensation plans
- 65 Closing Out Sales

65	Code Enforcement
65	Comic Books
65	Concessions in Parks, etc.
65	Conflict of Interest
65	Congressional Medal of Honor
65	Constables
65	Contracts - Miscellaneous forms
65	Contracts
65	County Commissioners
65	Discrimination Commission
65	Divorce
65	Elections
65	Electrical Code
65	Employee Awards for Suggestions
65	Employee's Residence
65	Federal tax liens
65	Fire Prevention Regulations
65	Fire Prevention Code
65	Flag
65	Graham Law
65	Group Insurance
65	Hackney Carriages (Taxicabs)
65	Harbor Police
65	Hatch Act
65	Health and Hospitals
65	Health Regulations
65	Hospital Records
65	Hospital Construction grants
65	Hospital Regulations of Mass. Dept. of Public Health
65	Hospital Tort Liability
65	Hospital Management Study
66	Indemnification
66	Jury Service
66	Labor Unions, Collective Bargaining and Strikes
66	Lame Duck Statute
66	Legitimization of Children
66	Library
66	Licenses and Permits
66	License fees, etc.
66	Lost Checks, etc.
66	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
66	Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
66	Mayor's Field Day
66	Minimum Wage Law

66 Municipal Research Bureau  
66 Natural Gas  
66 New Boston Food Market Development Corp.  
66 Noise  
66 Old Age Assistance  
66 Open Air Parking Spaces  
66 Open Meetings  
66 Ordinances  
66 Overtime  
66 Park rules  
66 Parking Meters  
66 Parliamentary Law  
66 Political Activities of Public Employees  
66 Price Stabilization  
66 Prisoners  
66 Public Parking Facilities  
66 Public Works  
66 Real Estate Department  
66 Recovery of Moneys Paid  
66 Redevelopment  
66 Rent Control  
66 Retirement for Disability  
66 Riots  
66 School Appropriations  
66 Schools - Athletic Inquiries  
66 School Instruction  
66 School Loans  
66 School Lockers, Inspection of  
66 School Lunch Program  
66 School Salary Schedule  
66 School Teacher, Discharge of  
66 Tenure of School Teachers  
66 Schools - Tuition  
66 Settlement  
66 Shellfish Permits  
66 Social Security  
66 Sound Trucks  
66 State Boston Retirement System  
66 Sub-Bidder's Law  
66 Suffolk County  
66 Supervisors of Attendance  
66 Tax Title Decisions  
66 Teachers' Equal Pay Law  
66 Tidelands

66	Tort Liability of Municipalities
66	Traffic Regulations
66	Utility Rates
66	Veterans' Benefits
66	Witness Fees
66	Workers' Compensation
66	Zoning Law
67	Unfiled records
68	Unfiled records

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**Series XI: Legislation and Legislative history, circa 1940s-1970s (3.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

69	1966-1971
70	Miscellaneous files
79	Miscellaneous files, circa 1940s-1950s

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**Series XII: Railroad files, circa 1930s-1960s (3.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

71	Boston Elevated Railway case, circa 1940s
72	New Haven R.R. reorganization, circa 1938
73	Miscellaneous files, circa 1960s

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**Series XIII: Miscellaneous Law Department files, circa 1919-1990s (15.0 Cubic feet)**

Box

74	Miscellaneous subject files
75	Agreements between Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and City of Boston regarding Extension of Mass. Turnpike, circa 1968-1971
76	Miscellaneous deeds, leases, etc., circa 1919-1950
81	Fire Prevention
82	Miscellaneous files (Eastern Airlines)
83	City Hall Plaza issues
83	Domestic Partners
83	Title on Cummings Estate
84	Trust Fund correspondence, circa 1960s
85	Juvenile Curfew, 1996
85	Welfare Reform Task Force, 1997
86	Law Department Budget information, circa 1970s

87	Environmental files: Sewer and Harbor related, circa 1970s
88	
89	Municipal/Charitable Immunity
89	Portables, 1960s
89	Affirmative Action Plan of Health & Hospitals
90	Miscellaneous files
91	Miscellaneous files
92	Conflict of Interest opinions, 1983-1984
92	State Takeover of Courthouses, 1980-1984
92	Sale of George and Martha Washington portraits, 1979
92	Religious Services in Faneuil Hall, 1980

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