Inventory of the
Judge J. Waties and Elizabeth Waring Papers, Circa 1947 - 1964

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Judge J. Waties and Elizabeth Waring Papers,

Dates: Circa 1947 - 1964

Creator: Waring, Julius Waties.

Abstract: Julius Waties Waring (1880-1968), a Charleston native and attorney became a Federal Judge in 1942. At the time of his divorce and remarriage in 1945 to Elizabeth A. Hoffman (1895-1966), he began to hand down more liberal decisions, such as equalizing the pay of black and white teachers and outlawing South Carolina's white-only Democratic Primary. He soon ruled that "separate but equal" was per se inequality. Because he and his wife socialized with African Americans and held unpopular views, they were ostracized by white inhabitants of Charleston. In 1952, the Warings moved to New York City.

This collection consists entirely of photocopied materials from the Moreland-Spingarn Library's collections of Judge J. Waties Waring Materials. The correspondence series contains copies of letters from Septima Clark and Ruby Cornwell to Elizabeth Waring regarding national and local civil rights and election issues, the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), changing times and Clark's citizen education work for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, among other topics. Photocopies of legal proceedings including some from the Briggs versus Elliott law case fighting unequal school facilities for African Americans and some from the case of John Wrighten (with Thurgood Marshall as attorney) versus the Trustees of the University of South Carolina for his being denied entrance to the law school due to his race, and the unequal education a new law school for African Americans would provide.

Extent: .25 linear feet (1 archival box)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1033

Language of Material: Material in English

Biographical Note

Julius Waties Waring (1880-1968), a Charleston native and attorney became a Federal Judge in 1942. At the time of his divorce and remarriage in 1945 to Elizabeth A. Hoffman (1895-1966), he began to hand down more liberal decisions, such as equalizing the pay of black and white teachers and outlawing South Carolina's white-only Democratic Primary. He soon ruled that "separate but equal" was per se inequality. Because he and his wife socialized with African Americans and held unpopular views, they were ostracized by white inhabitants of Charleston. In 1952, the Warings moved to New York City.

Collection Overview
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Collection Arrangement

1. Correspondence
2. Legal Papers

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

Briggs, Harry, d. 1986 -- Trials, litigation, etc.
Cornwell, Ruby P. (Ruby Pendergrass), 1903-
Discrimination in education -- Law and legislation -- South Carolina -- History.
Elliott, R. W. -- Trials, litigation, etc.
Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993 -- Trials, litigation, etc.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Charleston Branch (Charleston, S.C.)
Race discrimination -- South Carolina -- History.
Segregation in education -- South Carolina -- History.
Southern Christian Leadership Conference.
University of South Carolina. School of Law.
Voting -- United States.

Waring, Elizabeth.

Waring, Julius Waties, 1880-1968.

Wrighten, John, 1922-1996 -- Trials, litigation, etc.

Young Women's Christian Associations. Charleston, S.C.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], J. Waties and Elizabeth Waring, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Tim Fritz and Harlan Greene, October 2006

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

Funding from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation supported the processing of this collection.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.
Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Correspondence, 1950-1964

Box 1 Folder 1  Letters from Septima Clark and Ruby Cornwell to Judge and Mrs. J Waties Waring, 1950-1952
Most letters are to Elizabeth Waring thanking her for personal gifts and for her and the Judge's inspiring contributions to the cause of civil rights. There are mentions of troubles with integrating the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the poor behavior of black voters in the Morrison/Wallace democratic primary in Charleston, troubles in the local NAACP chapter, and much material on social and family life.

Box 1 Folder 2  Letters from Septima Clark and Ruby Cornwell mostly to Mrs. Elizabeth Waring, 1952-1955 and 1962-1964
Includes mention of their civil rights activities and views and thanking Mrs. Waring and the Judge for theirs; with one copy of a letter from the Judge. Topics include problems with Charleston YWCA, NAACP and Shaw Center; racist policies of local newspaper News and Courier, the looming court decision of "the Clarendon case," and changing behaviors in the city of Charleston while blacks demand more rights. Later letters of Clark describe the writing of her autobiography, detail her work for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, working with staff like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to increase voter registration; and her thoughts on the personal life and habits of Thurgood Marshall.

Box 1 Folder 3  Miscellaneous correspondence of Septima Clark and Ruby Cornwell with others, 1951-1953
Regarding various civil rights issues, with mentions of the Warings.

2. Legal Papers, 1947-1951

Box 1 Folder 4  Harry Briggs, et. al. versus R. Elliott, 1950-1951
Includes complaint, answer, and interrogatories by defendants of legal case in District Court of US, Eastern District of South Carolina, Charleston Division, civil action file number 2657. The class action case was bringing suit over the unequal nature of African American schools and facilities in the segregated era.

Box 1 Folder 5  Memorandums, Defendant's Final Brief, Findings of Fact, Proposed Findings and other Legal Documents, circa 1947-1948
The case involves African American John Wrighten's being denied admission to University of South Carolina's law school due to his race; with copy of Thurgood Marshall's pleading that the state's plan to create a separate law school for African Americans does not create an equal learning opportunity. Civil Action 1670 in District Court of the US, Eastern District of South Carolina, Columbia Division