

Guide to the Oscar B. Goodman Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1jf5f>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Goodman, Oscar Baylin, 1939-
Title:	Oscar B. Goodman Papers [CLOSED]
ID:	MS-00478
Date [inclusive]:	1888 to 2020
Date [bulk]:	1967 to 1997
Physical Description:	2156.24 Cubic Feet (1,677 boxes, 6 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	1818.33 Linear Feet
Physical Location:	Materials are stored in the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval Unit (LASR). Advanced notice may be required to access these materials.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	[This collection is closed. See Access Note for additional information.] The Oscar B. Goodman Papers (1888-2020) are comprised of records produced by Oscar Goodman from his time as a criminal defense lawyer in Las Vegas, Nevada. This includes working, legal, and evidence files from his own individual practice and his time as a partner at various law firms. The collection contains case files, wiretap tapes and transcripts, administrative files, and files relating to the legal affairs of his wife, Carolyn Goodman. The collection also contains the working files of David Chesnoff, lawyer and Goodman's former legal partner.

Preferred Citation

Oscar B. Goodman Papers [CLOSED], 1888-2020. MS-00478. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1jf5f>

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Biographical Note

Oscar Goodman was born June 26, 1939 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He earned his undergraduate degree from Haverford College in 1961 and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1964. That same year, he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and in 1965 he was admitted to the Nevada State Bar. He served as Clark County's chief deputy public defender from 1966 to 1967. He was known as one of the best criminal defense attorneys in the United States, and spent 35 years defending alleged organized crime figures such as Meyer Lansky, Frank Rosenthal, and Anthony Spilotro. Goodman was the primary visionary and a member of the board of directors of The Mob Museum in downtown Las Vegas, which opened in 2012. Goodman was elected as mayor of Las Vegas for the first time in 1999. During his three terms as mayor, he supported projects such as forming the Arts District and Union Park, a high-rise residential and business project. He helped begin what he called the "Manhattanization" of downtown Las Vegas, which included the construction of taller buildings for better use of the area's relatively small real estate footprint.

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Scope and Contents Note

[This collection is closed. See Access Note for additional information.] The Oscar B. Goodman Papers (1888-2020) are comprised of records produced by Oscar Goodman from his time as a criminal defense lawyer in Las Vegas, Nevada. This includes working, legal, and evidence files from his own individual practice and his time as a partner at various law firms. The collection contains case files, wiretap tapes and transcripts, administrative files, and files relating to the legal affairs of his wife, Carolyn Goodman. The collection also contains the working files of David Chesnoff, lawyer and Goodman's former legal partner. There is a small amount of personal materials from both Goodman and Chesnoff, as well as some gaming-related artifacts.

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Arrangement

These records are organized into six series:

Series I. Case Files, 1950-2008;

Series II. Administrative Files, 1888-1999;

Series III. Tapes and Transcripts, 1968-1997;
Series IV. Chesnoff Case Files, 1969-1995;
Series V. Oscar Goodman Personal Files, 1964-2020;
Series VI. Carolyn Goodman Personal Files, 1986-1992.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

This collection is closed to researchers. Only the donor, Oscar B. Goodman, may request access to the collection. Contents in this collection will be open for research fifty years from the date that the donor ceases practicing law in the state of Nevada.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2010 by Oscar Goodman; accession number 2003-24. Additional material was donated in 2022 and 2023 by Oscar Goodman; accession numbers 2022-094 and 2023-074.

Processing Note

Materials were sorted and arranged by Hana Gutierrez, Nia Banks, and Minaam Baseer in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, Nia Banks, Brooks Whittaker, and Miguel Dominguez, inventoried and rehoused the materials, and entered the data into ArchiveSpace. The collection is not processed, but an inventory was created indicating material types and date ranges. File titles were transcribed and spelling corrections were added to facilitate searching. In 2023, Sarah Jones processed the additional materials and updated the finding aid; 11 boxes of newspaper clippings and 4 boxes of artifacts were discarded.

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Names and Subjects

- Organized crime
- Criminal justice, Administration of
- Legal cases -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Lawyers
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History