

Judge Sidney A. Jones Papers
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Chicago History Museum
Title	Judge Sidney A. Jones Papers
Date [inclusive]	1932-1994
Extent	1.46 Linear feet
Language	English

Abstract Judge Sidney A. Jones, Jr. (1909-1993) was a prominent Chicago civil rights attorney, alderman, and Cook County Circuit Court judge. Jones graduated from Clark Atlanta University in 1928 and from Northwestern University Law School in 1931. While at Northwestern, Jones became a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, of which he was an active member of until his death. The Judge Sidney A. Jones papers spans from 1932 to 1994 and is comprised of five series: "Fraternal Order and Club Involvement," "Civic Engagement," "Law Career," "Political Involvement," and "Personal."

Please cite this collection as

Judge Sidney A. Jones (Chicago History Museum), plus a detailed description, date, and box/folder number of a specific item.

Biographical/Historical note

Judge Sidney A. Jones, Jr. (1909-1993) was a prominent Chicago civil rights attorney, alderman, and Cook County Circuit Court judge. Born in Sandersville Georgia, Jones's family moved to Atlanta where he attended Clark Atlanta University high school. Jones graduated from Atlanta University in 1928 and went on to graduate from Northwestern University Law School in 1931. While at Northwestern, Jones became a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha of which he was an active member of until his death. After law school, Jones practiced civil rights law in Chicago and was a Senior Attorney for the United States Department of Labor from 1939 to 1946.

Jones's political career began when he was elected Alderman of Chicago's 6th Ward in 1955. In 1960, He was elected as a Cook County judge and was continually re-elected until his retirement in 1980. After his retirement as a judge, Jones became an Adjunct Professor of Law at DePaul University Law School until 1983 when Mayor Harold Washington appointed Jones director of the Mayor's License Commission. Jones stayed on this cabinet through Mayor Sawyer's term until 1989, staying after Washington's death in 1987. Jones was a member of the Chicago Bar Association, National Bar Association, past President of the Cook County Bar Association, life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, former member of and served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Boys' Club, and was legal counsel of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Scope and Contents note

The Judge Sidney A. Jones papers spans from 1932 to 1994 and is comprised of five series: "Fraternal Order and Club Involvement," "Civic Engagement," "Law Career," "Political Involvement," and "Personal." Documents include correspondence, programs, legal documents, press clippings, and writings by Jones. A large portion of the collection is made up of Jones's involvement in various fraternities and club organizations. Of note are legal cases Jones tried in the 1930s concerning discrimination in labor unions. Researchers interested in African American history, legal history, and Chicago history will find this collection useful.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Chicago History Museum 02/13/2013

Restrictions

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Processing Information note

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Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- African American--History.
- Alpha Phi Alpha--History
- Clark Atlanta University
- Forty Club
- Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.)
- Sigma Pi Phi. Delta Alpha Boulé (Northern Ill.)

Cited Sources

Judge Sidney A. Jones (Chicago History Museum), biographical sketch of Judge Sidney A. Jones, undated, box 2/folder 13.

Series I. Fraternal Order and Club Involvement

Collection Inventory

Series I. Fraternal Order and Club Involvement 1936-1994 (Bulk, 1988-1992)

Scope and Contents note

This series includes documents pertaining to Jones's membership and participation in Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African American inter-collegiate fraternity in the United States, its Xi Lambda and Theta chapters, Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, Original Forty Club of Chicago, Scufflers Club, and Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association. Materials include convention programs and minutes, financial reports, Alpha Phi Alpha's publication *The Sphinx*, Sigma Pi Phi fraternity's publication *The Boulé Journal*, writings by and about Jones and his involvement in Alpha Phi Alpha, and real estate papers. This series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Theta and Xi Lambda Chapters 1936, 1976	1	1
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity 1939-1993	1	2-10
Theta and Xi Lambda Chapters 1992-1993	2	11
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity 1992-1993	2	12-13
The Original Forty Club of Chicago circa 1964-1994, undated	2	14-17
Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association 1982-1993	2	18

Series II. Civic Engagement

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 1990-1993	2	19
Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 1990-1992	3	20
Scufflers Club 1986-1991	3	21
Series II. Civic Engagement circa 1974-1998		
Scope and Contents note		
<p>This series is comprised of material relating to Jones's involvement in the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Memorial Medical Society for Health and Human Services, the Chicago Boys' Clubs, the Washington County Elderite Association, and writings on African American history, religion, and politics. Documents include correspondence, programs, writings by Jones and articles of incorporation.</p>		
	Box	Folder
Elderite Association, Inc. and Chicago Boys Club 1974, 1981, 1987	3	22
The Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Memorial Medical Society for Health and Human Services 1992-1998	3	23
Human and Civil Rights Issues circa 1984-1992	3	24
African American History, Religion, and Politics circa 1970-1980, undated	3	25
African American History, Religion, and Politics 1980-1981, undated	3	26

Series III. Law Career

Family Issues circa 1979-1989, undated 3 27

Series III. Law Career 1932-1992

Scope and Contents note

This series contains documents relating to Jones’s involvement in labor law and anti-discrimination suits he fought in court, primarily from the time he was Senior Attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor. Also represented is Jones’s time in private practice in the early 1990s and as legal counsel of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Materials include correspondence, a transcript record from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, press clippings, and documents relating to Northwestern University Law School joint reunion of the classes of 1930, 1931, and 1932, on June 14, 1991.

	Box	Folder
Labor Union Discrimination 1939-1941	3	28
Labor Union Discrimination 1932-1939, 1969, 1977	3	29
Correspondence 1990-1992	4	30
African Methodist Episcopal Legal Council 1960, 1988-1990	4	31
Northwestern Law School Reunion 1991	4	32

Series IV. Political Involvement circa 1956-1989

Scope and Contents note

Series V. Personal

This series is primarily comprised of materials relating to Jones's time as Alderman of Chicago's 6th Ward but also his political interests in the 1980s. Documents include press clippings, correspondence, programs and fliers, and photographs.

	Box	Folder
Chicago Sixth Ward Alderman Materials 1956, 1960-1961	4	33
Chicago Political Involvement circa 1982-1989	4	34

Series V. Personal 1937-1993, undated**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains personal documents of Jones's, including correspondence, a biographical sketch, and Jones's research and writings on Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence and Biographical Sketch 1965, 1993, undated	4	35
Correspondence 1937, 1989, 1991	4	36
Research and Writings on Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln 1979, undated	4	37