

FINDING AID

BOUNDS LAW LIBRARY ARCHIVES UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

ALBERT JOHN FARRAH COLLECTION
MSS.0052

Date Span: 1863–1944

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot

Description: This collection contains materials that were used to compile “Albert John Farrah: Addresses, Papers, and Letters,” a University of Alabama School of Law publication honoring Dean Farrah. Born in 1863 in Adrian, Michigan, Farrah attended the University of Michigan law school where he graduated with his LL.B. in 1896. Before attending law school at Michigan, he served as the superintendent of the Michigan, Michigan school system from 1888-1894. He received an A.M. degree from Cornell College in 1906. After a few years in private practice in Michigan, Farrah taught law at the University of Michigan from 1897–1900. He then moved to Florida to serve as the founding dean of the Stetson University College of Law, a position he held from 1900–1909. Farrah then traveled to Gainesville, where he served as the founding dean of the University of Florida Law School from 1909–1912. Finally, he settled in Tuscaloosa, where he served as the dean of the University of Alabama School of law from 1913 until his death in 1944.

Envelope 1

Envelope 1 is titled “Farrah, Albert John: Papers, photographs, and memorabilia donated by Dean Farrah’s daughter Katherine.” As the name suggests, it contains photographs and some personal papers owned by Dean Farrah’s daughter Katherine. The papers within this envelope are contained in five sub-envelopes. There is also a free-floating biographical sketch (undated) from *The Southerner*.

- Envelope 1: “Farrah, Albert.”
 - Includes miscellaneous photographs of Farrah, including two photographs of a bust of him, a composite of the Senior Law Class of 1929 with Farrah as Dean, a headshot of Farrah, and an undated photograph of a law class on the steps of the building that is now Farrah Hall.
- Free-floating biographical sketch, undated, from *The Southerner*.
- Envelope 2: “A.J. Farrah Papers–Documents.”
 - Handwritten biographical sketch of Farrah’s professional career
 - Donation slip: “From the Library of Albert J. Farrah, Dean, 1912-1944. Presented to the Library of the School of Law by Mrs. A.J. Farrah.”
 - A wedding card or wedding gift card for Farrah and his wife. States “Bert J. Farrah. Eva A. Wilson. Married August Thirtieth, 1888.” At Home, September Tenth, Michigamme, Marquette Co., Michigan.”
- Envelope 3: “A.J. Farrah Papers, Photograph c. 1890”
 - A photograph of Farrah teaching next to a chalkboard, circa 1890. The photograph is set on a card.
- Envelope 4: “A.J. Farrah Papers, Misc. Photographs.”
 - Miscellaneous photographs of Farrah and others at graduation ceremonies, dressed in cap and gown.
- Envelope 5: “A.J. Farrah Papers, Photograph and Envelope.”
 - Two headshot/portrait-style photographs of Farrah.

Envelope 2

Envelope 2 is titled “Albert John Farrah, 1863–1944: Addresses, Papers and Letters.” The materials in this envelope consist of bound copies, photocopies, and correspondence relating to the publication of a volume containing selected addresses, papers and letters of Dean Farrah.

- Two bound copies of “Albert John Farrah, 1863–1944: Addresses, Papers and Letters”
- Handwritten notes planning out the volume
- Correspondence circa 1985 from Dean Charles Gamble to others—including the University of Alabama Press and individuals who are featured in the book—regarding the publication of the volume
- Other notes/materials planning the volume, including copies of the introductory material
- Two photocopies of the entire volume

–Handwritten note, dated February 25, 1985, and signed “W”: the author notes that they requested that Judge Harwood identify pictures and that they spoke to Miss Farrah (Dean Farrah’s daughter) about the project, which she thought was “just wonderful.”

–Copy of dedication of 1917 Corolla to Dean Farrah

–Copies of the law faculty’s pages in the 1916 Corolla

Envelope 3

Envelope 3 is titled “Abstracts of Alabama Supreme Court Decisions Relating to Education;” and “Law and Education in Alabama Vol. II.” Contains two typewritten documents with briefs of Alabama Supreme Court decisions relating to education.

–Third copy of final volume of “Albert John Farrah, 1863–1944: Addresses, Papers, and Letters”

–Red, bound, typewritten volume titled “Abstracts of Supreme Court Decisions Relating to Education;” by Dean A.J. Farrah, University of Alabama, Director

–Blue, bound, typewritten volume titled “Law and Education in Alabama, Vol. II” by Dean A.J. Farrah, University of Alabama, Director

Envelope 4

Envelope 4 is titled “Farrah, Albert John. 2nd Series. Miscellaneous letters, speeches, and writings (1937–1942).”

–Undated, untitled 17-page speech about legal education in America. The pages are held together with tacks.

–5-page speech on Farrah’s letterhead making recommendations to the Committee on Legislation for the requirements of applicants before taking the bar exam

–5-page speech regarding the administration of justice in Alabama. This speech refers to a “Professor McCoy.”

–18-page handwritten speech titled “The Law School in its Relation to the State.”

–Letter, dated June 6, 1940 from Bryan A. Whitmire, Junior Bar Section of the Alabama State Bar Association. The letter is addressed to “Junior Bar Member.” Handwritten in pencil on the letter are the words “importance questionable”

–Letter, dated May 30, 1942 from Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson to Farrah, thanking Farrah for his support in his campaign. Portions of the letter are marked out in pencil.

–Letter, dated July 8, 1937 from John Adams of Adams & Gillmore in Grove Hill, Alabama to Farrah. The letter congratulates Farrah for 25 years of service as Dean of Alabama Law.

–Letter, dated July 8, 1937 from Huntsville attorney Robert W. Milner to Farrah, again congratulating him for his service.

–Undated, 9-page speech given to the “Club of Bessemer”

Envelope 5

Envelope 5 is titled “Farrah, Albert John: 2nd Series. Addresses to the Alabama Bar Association and Junior Bar Section of the Alabama State Bar (Undated).”

- 15-page, undated, handwritten speech given to the Alabama Bar Association
- 7-page, undated, typewritten speech given to the Alabama Bar Association. The legal sized papers are held together with rusty staples or tacks. Heavy notation on the pages. The subject of the speech was “The Law School in its Relation to the State,” a subject covered by another speech in Envelope 4.
- 16-page typewritten speech given to the Alabama Bar Association regarding a paper written by Farrah about the “Constitution of the United States and the Courts.”
- 9-page typewritten speech given to the Alabama Bar Association. Heavy notation.
- 6-page, typewritten speech on small paper. Speech was given to the Jr. Bar Section of the Alabama State Bar. The speech quoted the Bible and expressed Farrah’s thanks to the people of Alabama for taking him in.
- 2-page typewritten speech on small paper. Speech was an introduction of Dean Thomas Charles Kimbrough of Ole Miss Law School given to the Jr. Section of the Alabama State Bar.

Envelope 6

Envelope 6 is titled “Farrah, Albert John. 2nd Series. Speeches delivered to graduating classes at the School of Law (1935-1942).”

- Typewritten speech, 5 pages on small paper, given to the graduating class of 1935. Speech charged the graduates to uphold the honor of the profession and was sprinkled with lawyer jokes.
- Handwritten 7-page speech delivered to the graduating class of 1939. This class was Farrah’s 25th graduating class, and the speech largely pontificates on how far the school has come in those years.
- 7-page, undated, typewritten speech given to the graduates of the Summer Law School. The speech exhorted the graduates to preserve and live honorably as lawyers.
- Typewritten speech, 3 pages, given to the class of 1942, regarding the Farrah’s time at the law school and the duties and opportunities of a lawyer
- 2-page typewritten speech given to the class of 1936 introducing the commencement speaker, Florida Attorney General Cary D. Landis
- 3-page typewritten speech given to the class of 1936, thanking them for their memory of him. Handwritten on the cover page of the speech are the words “the day the bust was presented,” so Farrah gave this speech in thanks to the class for this gesture.
- Typewritten, 5-page speech given to the graduating class of 1937. Similar in content to the speech given to the class of 1942.
- Handwritten speech, 7 pages, undated. Addressed to “Mr. Toastmaster,” suggesting that this speech was given at a graduation banquet—or similar event—as opposed to a graduation ceremony.

Envelope 7

Envelope 7 is titled "Farrah, Albert John. 2nd Series. Extra Material for 'Albert John Farrah, 1863–1944: Addresses, Papers, and Letters' (1985)." Contains materials used in the assembly and printing of the Farrah publication.

- Print of drawing of Farrah Hall by Gerald Nix
- Manila folder titled "Extra Materials." Contains miscellaneous photographs and clippings from the UA yearbook, *The Corolla*.
- Cardboard folder containing miscellaneous photographs that were used in the publication. The photos are marked with page numbers.
- "Blueprint" of the manuscript of the publication to send to the printer. Measurements of each page on card stock, with the actual pages of the publication pasted to the card stock.

Envelope 8

Envelope 8 is titled "Farrah, Albert John. 2nd Series. Speeches delivered at the School of Law and various other law schools (undated)."

- Typewritten speech, 3 pages, given to the Alumni Association of Michigan University for Alabama.
- Handwritten speech, 5 pages, given at "Stetson–Debate with Salt Lake City:" handwritten on the first page of the speech
- Handwritten speech, 12 pages, given to the Stetson Law School class of 1904.
- Handwritten speech, 13 pages. Given to the "College of Law of Stetson University." Handwritten on the top of the cover page of the speech are the words "Begging for better conditions will be appreciated by Fla. lawyers."
- Handwritten speech, 4 pages. Given to the Stetson College of Law class of 1908. In handwriting on the top of cover page of the speech: "Dean A.J. Farrah's address of acceptance in behalf of the Law School of Pres. Lincoln Hulley's portrait."
- 4-page, undated speech, handwritten. Titled "Gainesville, Fla. State University."
- 3-page, undated speech, handwritten. Introduction of "Judge Clark" as the speak at a Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity event.
- 3-page typewritten speech given to the Order of Jurisprudence. Introduction of Senator Lister Hill.

Envelope 9

Envelope 9 is titled "Farrah, Albert John. 3rd Series. Excuse from C.A. Elliott (10/22/14). The envelope contains only one scrap of paper: a note from C.A. Elliott, a law student asking Professor Farrah to excuse him from recitation that morning.