

FINDING AID

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW BOUNDS LAW LIBRARY ARCHIVES

DANIEL J. MEADOR COLLECTION
MSS.044

Date Span: 1901-2000

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet

Description: This collection primarily pertains to Daniel J. Meador's preparation and publication of his book, *Mr. Justice Black and His Books*, 1974 (other files used to prepare that book are at the University of Virginia Law School—see MSS 82-3, Register of the Papers of Daniel J. Meador). The collection also includes Meador's correspondence with Justice Black's other law clerks and secondary materials that Meador collected relating to justice Black's career, death, and memorials. Included are a few autograph letters from Justice Black, and other noteworthy correspondence relating to Meador's work pertaining to Justice Black. Daniel J. Meador was a law professor at the University of Virginia law School, a former Assistant Attorney General in the Carter Administration, and Dean of the University of Alabama School of Law (1966-1970).

NOTE: Folders are labeled with titles and numbers; each folder is assigned a number in this finding aid. Documents arrived from Dean Meador in two boxes, and were later consolidated into one box during processing. In 2013, the collection was transferred from the original folders into acid free envelopes and folders. The original folders have been saved in a folder of their own, as they are in Dean Meador's hand. The new folders have been labeled as Dean Meador originally labeled them. Folders 1, 2, 4, 7, and 21 have titles in brackets; these titles have been added to help with organization. Folders 22, 23 are the remains of a large unlabeled folder that has been split into two folders.

Folder 1: [Pruitt/Meador Correspondence]

- Letter from Dean Meador (2/15/2000) confirming the mailing of files pertaining to *Mr. Justice Black and His Books* to the University of Alabama Bounds Law Library; also, copy of reply from Paul Pruitt (2/23/2000) confirming the boxes' arrival.

Folder 2: [Meador-Hugo Black Miscellaneous]

- From 1971 to 1976. All documents have to do with publication of *Mr. Justice Black and His Books*. Letters and memoranda to and from published, congratulatory letters, letters soliciting book reviews, and thanks for reviews. Letters to do with gift copies. Letter from U.S. Attorney Hugh Moore (Chattanooga) claiming credit for a photograph used in the book; Meador replies offering to give credit. Notes from Elizabeth Black (Justice Black's widow), both social and regarding book. Notes on search for poetic quote. Appeals to former law clerks to read parts of manuscript and send comments. Correspondence about difficulties in cataloguing the Justice's books at the Black's home.

Folder 3: "J. Black Correspondence – HLB Correspondence"

- Contains personal correspondence (26 autographed letters) from Justice Black to Meador: they concern social occasions and family news; some answer invitations by Meador for the Justice to speak at the Student Legal Forum; some relate to visits to University of Virginia by Justice and Mrs. Black. Many are typed and signed by the Judge's hand, some are handwritten. Letters from other correspondents relate to plans for birthday celebrations, and gift of a new judges robe. Query from a Lynwood C. Smith about writing a biography of the Justice. Some letters from Elizabeth Black.

Folder 4: [Notes on Justice Black]

- Contains some of Meador's notes for his book, lists of citations and references, lists of books Justice Black mentioned, and references from Black's personal books. Documents pertaining to Virginia Hamilton's book on Black; notes on Charles Reich's *Greening of America* (Reich was a law clerk of Black's). Copy of Will Durant's 1937 "100 Books" in *The Nation*, that inspired Justice Black's reading. Quotes in Black's legal opinions from his books. Meador's proposed outline for the book, plus details on citations and classical authors.

Folder 5: "Justice Black's Books – Library – Study – Notes"

- Contains bibliographies of articles on Black. Design of a code Meador devised for locating specific volumes on Black's shelves; sketches of arrangements of his bookcases, and book locations; legend and symbols used on each bibliographic card for books; map of study at Black home and drawings of walls and arrangement of room. Also contains ephemera relative to Black's death. Notes from the Virginia Hamilton biography. Notes on instructions to bibliographer, Gwen Folsom. Receipt for loan of books (1972) to Meador. Notes for quotations and photographs.

Folder 6: "Photos and Related Correspondence 1973"

- Notes on photographs to be used in *Mr. Justice Black and His Books*. This folder contains photographic negatives of book pages with Black's handwritten notations; a photograph of Black's home study at Snowden House and permissions to use texts from other books.

Folder 7: [Contains 23 Booklets/Pamphlets]

- These include such items as a printed birthday tribute by Elizabeth Black, congratulatory essays (for birthday), a speech given by Black in 1960, legal opinions printed by the Supreme Court, copies of articles by Black, material about Hugo L. Black Fund for the University of Alabama School of Law, privately published copies of law lectures presented by Black, presentations from Black's 80th Birthday, and a remembrance by (secretary) Frances Lamb on Black's death.

Folder 8: "Honor System, University of Virginia"

- 1976 responses to Meador's speech on the University of Virginia Honor System, also a pamphlet on plagiarism. Unrelated to this material, a photo of Black in his study and photo of Black, laughing in office at Supreme Court [Hugo Moore photo]. Also a booklet of Alabama School of Law graduates, 1968, Daniel Meador, Dean.

- Folder 9: "Black, J. – Death and Funeral"

- This folder contains copies of readings from Black's funeral on 9/28/71 at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., including tributes; also news stories of the event. Letters from Meador to Mrs. Black with his idea for *Mr. Justice Black and His Books*. Also a letter and tribute to the Justice upon his retirement.

Folder 10: "Justice Black's Books – Listings from Cards"

- An "index" to books in home library, some penciled in addenda. An index entitled as the Judge's 'favorite books' which are in storage at Supreme Court: these are actually bibliographies and not an index in alpha order.

Folder 11: "Hugo Black Memorial Library, Inc."

- Documents, mainly correspondence, dating from 1973 through 1976, on the establishment of the Hugo Black Memorial Library, Inc., a public library in Ashland, Alabama. This includes a letter from M.L. Flegal asking Meador to serve on the advisory committee; outlined budgets; lists of significant Alabama legislators and Committees; and an architectural rendering of the proposed library building.

Folder 12: "Hugo Black Law Clerks"

- Correspondence between Meador and other former clerks about attendance at occasions honoring the Justice. Copies of letter from Meador to all clerks announcing *Mr. Justice Black And His Books*. Letter to Mrs. Black asking for current addresses of certain clerks.

Folder 13: "Black Essay – Final Version – Shelf Diagrams – 4-27-73"

- Meador sometimes referred to his book on Black's reading/books as an essay; this folder contains a final version of the location of Black's books on his shelves in his lifetime, a list of the books' subject matter, and two chronologies of Black's life, with Meador's notations.

Folder 14: "Law Clerks"

- Several newspaper and magazine articles on the role of law clerks in the U.S. Supreme Court (*Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Juris Doctor*, et al). Lists of names and addresses for all former Law Clerks of Justice Black. Letters to and from Meador regarding articles for law journal articles, including *Alabama Law Review*. Typed copies and galley proofs of some articles, including "Justice Black and His Law Clerks" *Alabama Law Review*, 15:57. Notes on a 1954 article, "Chief Justice Vinson and His Law Clerks," a model for Meador article. Handwritten manuscript of article or speech (no title; bibliographic search failed to locate published version). Correspondence from and to Robert Basseches (1962) regarding biographical data.

Folder 15: "Black, J. – Misc. Items"

- Two personal letters from Black to Meador, with notation, "Here are the last two letters I received from the Judge." These letters concern Meador's children and visits. *The Bulletin of the Birmingham Bar Association*, July 1970, featuring convention speakers, Hugo Black and Warren Burger. Newspaper clippings from several newspapers about the Justice. Also one from *The Birmingham News*, 1968. Letters to former law clerks regarding Hugo Black Law Fund, also a tribute dinner for the Justice. *Civil Liberties Docket*, Vol. VIII, no. 3, May 1963, noting Meador's article on Justice

Black's Law Clerks. Handwritten Manuscripts of articles or speeches (?) (1) on understanding Hugo Black, (2) on Meador's becoming Black's law clerk (no dates or titles; bibliographic search failed to locate publication). Articles by Dan O. Dowe in Montgomery's *Alabama Journal*, July 1960: "Hugo Black's Childhood in Clay County," "Clay Countians, Sorry For Black, Are Baffled by His Change." Handwritten lists of decisions by Black and "F.F." (Assume, Felix Frankfurter). Notes from Wallace Mendelson's *Justices Black and Frankfurter: Conflict In The Court*. Other Citations from Various articles about Black.

Folder 16: "Mr. Justice Black – Misc. Article Notes, Etc."

- Letter from University of the South about Orlando Black (Justice Black's brother). Copy of 1901 Commencement Program in 1901 University of the South catalog, all attached with letter from Alumni organization. Other notes and citations from/concerning interviews and articles. An issue of *Time Magazine* (10/9/64), including several in-house *Time* newsletters about Black. Offprint of book review of *Justices Black and Frankfurter*. Typed manuscript of article or speech by Meador titled "Black and Fortas: Questions of Judgment" (Bibliographic search failed to locate publication). Notes for footnote and quotation research (1973). News clipping about the selling of the Black's home (Snowden House).

Folder 17: "Law Clerks (Justice Black)"

- Primarily contains responses to Meador's mailing of a letter and questionnaire researching *Mr. Justice Black and His Books*. Also, lists of clerks and current addresses, and a letter from Meador to Elizabeth Black asking for address corrections. The folder contains several interesting letters from former clerks with reminiscences of the Justice's reading and his conversations about books; some include the completed questionnaire. Includes 33 responses—most interesting are from John Kester, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, 1972. Notes of clerks' mention of Black's favorite books.

Folder 18: "Draft of Black Essay"

- Contains letter with response from the Justice's family on draft of book (1973). Contains letter from John Kester (March 1973) to Meador mentioning Kester's subpoena work on the Watergate case; Kester recollects Black's remarks about Kennedy and about Johnson, etc. Photocopy of a newspaper clipping from *Birmingham Age-Herald* (1927).