

A Guide to the Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997

Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997
1963-1997

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Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Archives, Washington and Lee University
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Descriptive Summary

Collection number
009

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

47 cu. ft.

Repository

Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Archives, School of Law, Washington and Lee University

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions on access.

Preferred Citation

Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997, Ms 009, Lewis F. Powell Jr. Archives, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

Biographical/Historical Information

Frank Ruff Parker III was born on May 11, 1940 in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania to Marjorie LeClair Parker and Frank R. Parker, Jr. He attended public schools in Steubenville, Ohio, and received his B.A. from Oberlin College in Ohio. After studies at Oxford University in England, Parker received an Erwin N. Griswold Scholarship to Harvard Law School, where he obtained his L.L.B. degree in 1966. Married three times, to Virginia Foster Durr, Carolyn Parker, and Ann Burlock Lawver, Parker had four children: Barbara Parker Golden, Stephanie Parker Weaver, Kevin Parker, and Ian Parker.

He began his legal career as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington from 1966-1968. In 1968, Parker moved to Jackson, Mississippi, to work for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. He became chief Counsel of the Jackson office in 1976, where he litigated dozens of voting rights, public employment, and segregation cases. This work included the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Connor v. Finch*.

In 1981, Parker moved to Washington to direct the Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project, where he helped secure from Congress a 25-year extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. During his 12 years as Director of the Voting Rights Project, he launched a program to enforce the guarantees of the Voting Rights Act on a nationwide level through litigation and public education, and was a leader in the five-year struggle to enact the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. In 1990, he authored an award-winning book on the impact of the Voting Rights Act in Mississippi, *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965*. He co-founded the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. He also wrote eight book chapters, seven law review articles, and numerous case notes, conference reports, and articles.

In 1993, Parker accepted a position at the District of Columbia School of Law, where he taught from 1993-1995. He was a visiting professor at American University Washington College of Law in 1995-1996, and Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1996-1997. At the time of his death on July 10, 1997, Parker had accepted an appointment as a visiting law professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Scope and Content Information

Biographical materials include correspondence, resumes, photos, and memorabilia. Obituaries and materials from the memorial service in Parker's honor at the U.S. Department of Justice are also here. Personal papers include correspondence and notebooks from Parker's student days at Oxford, England. Audio and video recordings are mostly interviews given by or conducted by Parker on the subject of voting rights. Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under Law papers document Parker's work for the Committee's voting rights project at both its Mississippi and Washington, D.C. offices. Included are correspondence subject files, and case files. Redistricting in Lee County Mississippi is heavily documented. Writings include printed versions of much of Parker's writing from throughout his career; research materials for *Black Votes Count*; research materials and a typescript for the unpublished book *For the Common Good: The Case for Affirmative Action*. The teaching papers include subject files and class materials from Parker's years of teaching law at the District of Columbia School of Law, American University's Washington College of Law, and Washington and Lee University School of Law.

Arrangement

Only rough sorting of this collection has been accomplished. Materials are generally not arranged within the

potential series described in the scope and content note.

Contents List

Biographical Materials 1963-1997

Box 1

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Personal Papers 1963-1997

Box 2

Extent .5 cu. ft.

Audio & Video Recordings 1986-1994

Box 3

Extent .5 cu. ft.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Extent 2.5 cu.ft.

Mississippi Office 1963-1976

Box 4-6

Washington Office 1991-1992

Correspondence & Subject Files

Box 7

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Subject Files re Mississippi Desegregation

Box 8

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Unorganized Papers

Box 9

Extent .5 cu. ft.

Electronic Records ("floppy discs")

Box 10

Extent .5 cu. ft.

Subject and case files 1985-1993

Box 11-13

Extent 3 cu. ft.

Lee County, Mississippi

Depositions 1993

Box 14

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Depositions, Pleadings, & General Records 1992-1993

Box 15

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Correspondence, Memoranda & Discovery 1992-1993

Box 16

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Pleadings & General Records 1994

Box 17

Extent .5 cu. ft.

Notes and General Records 1993-1994

Box 18

Extent .5 cu. ft.

"Near Print" Committee Materials 1981-1991

Box 19

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Joint Center for Political Action 1995-1996

Box 20

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Writings

General 1964-1994

Box 21-23

Extent 3 cu. ft.

Black Votes Count

Research Materials 1964-1968

Box 24

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Subject Files 1990

Box 25

Extent 1 cu. ft.

Shaw v. Reno & Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases (Hays) 1994

Box 26

Extent 1.5 cu. ft.

Affirmative Action (For the Common Good) 1992-1996

Box 27-28

Extent 2 cu. ft.

Teaching (subject files and class materials)

District of Columbia School of Law 1993-1995

Box 29-36

Extent 7 cu. ft.

American University Washington College of Law 1993-1995

Box 37-42

Extent 5.5 cu. ft.

Washington and Lee University School of Law 1996-1997

Box 43-45

Extent 2.5 cu. ft.

Printed Materials

United States Court of Appeals Reports & Briefs 1969-1992

Box 46-52

Extent 5.5 cu. ft.

United States Supreme Court Reports and Briefs 1969-1990

Box 53-56

Extent 2 cu. ft.

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