

# Charles DiSalvo, WVU School of Law Professor and Gandhi Scholar, Papers A&M 5284

Charles DiSalvo, WVU School of Law Professor and Gandhi Scholar, Papers  
1893-1997



## Title Statement

Charles DiSalvo, WVU School of Law Professor and Gandhi Scholar, Papers A&M 5284

**Author:** Catherine Melillo

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.  
P.O. Box 6069  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069  
Business Number: 304-293-3536  
wvrhcref@westvirginia.libanswers.com  
URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-18 14:04:23 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

A&M 5284

**Unit ID**

[Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/7036

**Unit Date**

1893-1997

**Unit Date**

1893-1914

**Unit Date**

1982-1997

**Language**

English .

**Extent**

20 Linear Feet 20 ft. (16 record cartons, 15 in. each)

## Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

## Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

No special access restriction applies.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. For more information, please see the Permissions and Copyright page on the West Virginia and Regional History Center website.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charles DiSalvo via the WVU George R. Farmer Jr. Law Library, 2021-2023.

## Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Charles DiSalvo, WVU School of Law Professor and Gandhi Scholar, Papers, A&M 5284, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

# Biographical / Historical

Charles DiSalvo is the Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law at West Virginia University where he teaches one of the few law school courses in the United States on civil disobedience. He has represented civil disobedients in state and federal trial and appellate courts, written widely on the subject of civil disobedience and the law, and lectured on the subject here and abroad. He is an expert on Mohandas Gandhi's law practice. (Before he took up the cause of Indian independence from British rule, Gandhi served as an attorney in South Africa from 1893 to 1911 – a time during which Gandhi invented and experimented with his philosophy of nonviolence.) Professor DiSalvo has published what has been called a landmark book, *M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma* (2012), on Gandhi's life as a lawyer. In it, he argues that Gandhi was led into civil disobedience by the failures of the South African legal system.

Professor DiSalvo was educated at St. John Fisher College (B.A., history, 1970), Claremont Graduate School (M.A., East Asian studies, 1971), and the University of Southern California (J.D, 1974), where he was a member of the *Southern California Law Review*. Upon his graduation from law school, he was awarded a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship to practice poverty law for the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky.

He came to West Virginia University after serving as a Bigelow Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School from 1978-1979. In addition to teaching a course on civil disobedience and the law, he teaches courses on civil procedure and trial advocacy. He has won college, university, state, and national awards for his teaching.

He is the co-founder of the West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest.

Source: Charles R. DiSalvo | College of Law | West Virginia University. [www.law.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-information/charles-r-disalvo](http://www.law.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-information/charles-r-disalvo).

# Scope and Contents

This collection contains twenty years of documented research for DiSalvo's well received biography on Gandhi's time as an attorney in South Africa: *M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma* (2012). Notable materials include facsimiles of rare South African newspaper articles collected from libraries and repositories around the world. DiSalvo and his team read over 10,000 issues in all to put together this valuable resource for anyone studying Gandhi's time at law.

The collection also includes materials from DiSalvo's tenure as a member of the WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee, ca. 1980s to 1990s, including meeting minutes and proposals for new courses, as well as notable records from the West Virginia Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee, ca. 1995-1997, of which DiSalvo served as vice-chair. Highlights include early drafts of the committee's revisions to the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure, which could be of significant interest to legal historians.

Series include:

Series 1. Gandhi Biography Research, 1893-1914 (boxes 1-14): Research includes facsimiles of rare, historical newspaper articles and handwritten notes by DiSalvo and his graduate assistants.

Series 2. WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee Records, 1982-1997 (box 15): Assorted records from DiSalvo's time serving as a member of the WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee, including meeting minutes and proposals for new courses.

Series 3. WV Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee Records, 1995-1997 (boxes 14 and 16): Materials, including meeting minutes, proposal drafts, and correspondence between members, from the West Virginia Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee, of which DiSalvo served as vice-chair. The committee was appointed by the West Virginia Supreme Court in the 1990s to make recommendations about possible revisions to the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure.

## Keywords

Law -- Study and teaching

South Africa -- History

Supreme Court of West Virginia

West Virginia University College of Law Archives

Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series 1. Gandhi Biography Research

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226480

**Unit Date** 1893-1914

#### Scope and Contents

Research includes facsimiles of rare, historical newspaper articles and handwritten notes by DiSalvo and his graduate assistants.

### Johannesburg Star binder 1

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226481

**Unit Date** February 1903-December 1903

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

### Johannesburg Star binder 2

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226482

**Unit Date** December 1903-March 1904

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

### Johannesburg Star binder 3

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226483

**Unit Date** September 1905-February 1906

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

### Johannesburg Star binder 4

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226484

**Unit Date** March 1906-September 1906

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Johannesburg Star binder 5****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226485**Unit Date** November 1906-April 1907**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 6****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226486**Unit Date** April 1907-December 1907**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 7****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226487**Unit Date** January 2, 1908-January 18, 1908**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 8****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226488**Unit Date** January 23, 1908-July 8, 1908**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 9****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226489**Unit Date** July 13, 1908-September 1908**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 10****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226490**Unit Date** October 1908-January 1909**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 11****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226491**Unit Date** February 1909-August 1909**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Johannesburg Star binder 12****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226492**Unit Date** December 1909-May 1910**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Johannesburg Star binder 13**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226493

**Unit Date** May 1910-July 1910

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Johannesburg Star binder 14**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226494

**Unit Date** July 1910-October 1910

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Natal Law Reports binder 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226495

**Unit Date** 1893-1914

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Natal Law Reports binder 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226496

**Unit Date** 1894-1903

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**The Press (Pretoria) binder**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226497

**Unit Date** February 1893-November 1984

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Natal Witness binder 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226498

**Unit Date** 1893-1896

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Natal Witness binder 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226499

**Unit Date** 1897 part 1

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Natal Witness binder 3**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226500

**Unit Date** 1897 part 2

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Natal Witness binder 4**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226501

**Unit Date** 1898

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Natal Witness binder 5**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226502

**Unit Date** 1899-1901

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226503

**Unit Date** April 1893-June 1896

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226504

**Unit Date** January 1897-December 1897

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 3**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226505

**Unit Date** January 1898-December 1898

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 4**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226506

**Unit Date** January 1899-December 1899

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 5**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226507

**Unit Date** January 1900-December 1900

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Advertiser binder 6**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226508

**Unit Date** January 1901-February 1903

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Natal Mercury binder 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226509

**Unit Date** May 1893-December 1895

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Natal Mercury binder 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226510

**Unit Date** January 1896-June 1898

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Natal Mercury binder 3**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226511

**Unit Date** June 1898-December 1899

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Natal Mercury binder 4**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226512

**Unit Date** December 1899-September 1901

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Times of London binder 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226513

**Unit Date** January 1908-June 1908

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Times of London binder 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226514

**Unit Date** June 1908-December 1908

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, June 1903-May 1904**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226515

**Unit Date** June 1903-May 1904

**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, May-December 1904**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226516

**Unit Date** May-December 1904

**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, 1905**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226517

**Unit Date** 1905

**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, January-July 1906**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226518

**Unit Date** January-July 1906

**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, August-December 1906**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226519

**Unit Date** August-December 1906

**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, 1907**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226520

**Unit Date** 1907

**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, January 5, 1907-June 15, 1907**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226521

**Unit Date** 1907

**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, January 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226522

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, February 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226523

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, March 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226524

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, April 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226525

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, May 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226526

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, June 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226527

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, July-December 1908**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226528

**Unit Date** 1908

**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, 1909**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226529

**Unit Date** 1909

**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, January-June 1910**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226530

**Unit Date** 1910

**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, July-December 1910**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226531

**Unit Date** 1910

**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, 1911**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226532

**Unit Date** 1911

**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)

**Indian Opinion binder, 1912****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226533**Unit Date** 1912**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Indian Opinion binder, 1913-1914****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226534**Unit Date** 1913**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Transvaal Leader binder 1****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226535**Unit Date** February 1903-December 1905**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Transvaal Supreme Court Cases binder****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226536**Unit Date** 1908-1909**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)**Transvaal Leader binder 2****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226537**Unit Date** 1906**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Transvaal Leader binder 3****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226538**Unit Date** 1907**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Transvaal Leader binder 4****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226539**Unit Date** January 1908-June 1908**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)**Transvaal Leader binder 5****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226540**Unit Date** July 1908-December 1908**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)

**Rand Daily Mail binder 1****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226541**Unit Date** 1903-1906**Mixed Materials** 13 (Box)**Rand Daily Mail binder 2****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226542**Unit Date** 1907**Mixed Materials** 13 (Box)**Rand Daily Mail binder 3****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226543**Unit Date** January 1908-March 1908**Mixed Materials** 13 (Box)**Rand Daily Mail binder 4****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226544**Unit Date** March 1908-December 1908**Mixed Materials** 13 (Box)**Rand Daily Mail binder 5****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226545**Unit Date** 1909**Mixed Materials** 14 (Box)**Rand Daily Mail binder 6****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226546**Unit Date** 1910**Mixed Materials** 14 (Box)**Series 2. WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee Records and Ephemera****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226547**Unit Date** 1982-1997**Scope and Contents**

This series contains assorted records from DiSalvo's time serving as a member of the WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee, including meeting minutes and proposals for new courses.

**WVU School of Law Academic Planning Committee Records****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226548**Unit Date** 1982-1984, 1989-1997**Mixed Materials** 15 (Box)

### **Series 3. West Virginia Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee Records**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226549

**Unit Date** 1995-1997

#### **Scope and Contents**

Materials, including meeting minutes, proposal drafts, and correspondence between members, from the West Virginia Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee, of which DiSalvo served as vice-chair. The committee was appointed by the West Virginia Supreme Court in the 1990s to make recommendations about possible revisions to the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure.

#### **Rules of Civil Procedure Revision Committee records**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226550

**Unit Date** 1995-1997

**Mixed Materials** 14 (Box)

#### **Rules of Civil Procedure Committee records**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/226551

**Unit Date** 1995-1997

**Mixed Materials** 16 (Box)