Finding aid to the Wiley W. Manuel Papers MSS.1102

Finding aid prepared by Martha Noble and Noah Pollaczek, California Judicial Center Library, Special Collections and Archives
CJCL Special Collections and Archives
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: CJCL Special Collections and Archives
Title: Wiley W. Manuel Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.1102
Physical Description: 13.12 Cubic feet (3 record storage cartons, 4 legal document boxes, 8 flat storage boxes, 1 judicial robe)
Date (inclusive): 1939-2010
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Wiley W. Manuel Papers, MSS 1102, California Judicial Center Library.

Acquisition Information
The collection was transferred to the California Judicial Center Library by Alameda County Commissioner Charles Smiley in 2011.

Biographical Note
Born on August 28, 1927, in Oakland, California, Justice Wiley William Manuel was the first African American appointed to the California Supreme Court. He received his early education in Berkeley, California, and served in the U.S. Army from February 1946 to May 1947. In 1951 he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in economics. In 1953 he graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Hastings Law Journal. Following graduation, he served for twenty-three years with the California Department of Justice as a deputy attorney general, assistant attorney general, and chief assistant attorney general in the San Francisco Office.

Justice Manuel was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, in 1976. In February 1977 he was appointed to the California Supreme Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and was elected by the voters to a twelve-year term in November 1978. His death from cancer came in January 1981.

To honor his life of dedication to public service, hard work, and equal justice for all, African American lawyers in Sacramento County renamed their association the Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association. The Wiley W. Manuel Law Foundation, established in 1982, provides scholarships and career motivation for students in Northern California interested in pursuing a legal career. The Wiley W. Manuel Certificate, established in 1989 by the State Bar of California, is awarded to lawyers, law students, paralegals, and secretaries who volunteer their time and expertise on behalf of low-income clients.

The Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland is headquarters for Departments 101-115 of the Superior Court in Alameda County.

Scope and Contents
The Wiley W. Manuel papers consist of materials documenting the personal, academic, and professional life of the California Supreme Court’s first African American justice. Materials date from 1939 through 2010. Awards, certificates, citations, memorials and resolutions honoring Justice Manuel comprise the bulk of the collection. His accomplishments and life of service are also reflected in writings by family members. The collection contains diplomas and other materials documenting his academic history, including a series of lecture notes, briefs, and summaries he created while he was a student at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. A smaller portion of the collection consists of photographs, correspondence, notes and other materials produced during his tenure in the Office of the California Attorney General.
(1953-1976) and his service on the California Supreme Court (1977-1981). Justice Manuel's robe and gavel are among the non-textual materials included in the collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
African American judges -- California
California. Supreme Court.

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**Certificates, awards, and artifacts 1953-2010**

- Supreme Court of the State of California, Certificate of Admission, State Bar of California 1954
- United States District Court, Northern District of California, Certificate of Admission 1954
- Appointment to the Superior Court, County of Alameda by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. 1976
- Appointment to the Supreme Court of the State of California by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. 1977
- Berkeley Council Knights of Columbus #1499, Certificate of Appreciation 2010
- Black Law Students Association of McGeorge School of Law, In Appreciation 1979
- Boys' Clubs of Oakland, Third Annual Image Award 1980
- California Peace Officers' Training Program, Concord Police Academy, In Tribute to Wiley W. Manuel 1962
- California State Assembly, Resolution commending the Honorable Wiley W. Manuel 1980
- Certificate of Election, Office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California 1978
- Deputy Attorney General to Chief Assistant, 1953-1976 circa 1976
- East Bay Skills Center, Peralta Community College District, GED Certificate and letter 1978
- John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles, Award of Recognition 1978
- Judicial Council of the National Bar Association circa 1980
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, In Recognition 1980
- Lawyers Club of Los Angeles County, Certificate of Appreciation 1979
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Recognition 1981
- National Bar Association, Certificate of Membership undated
- Oakland Board of Realtors, Recognition of Distinguished Service and Outstanding Contributions 1977
- San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association, Certificate of Appreciation 1977
- St. Michael's Police Legion of the East Bay, Honorary Membership 1978
- Superior Court, Alameda County, Recognition of Dedicated Judicial Service 1977
- The Black American Law Student Association, William Hastie Award 1979
- California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), Certificate of completion, California Trial Judges 1976 College Session, Earl Warren Legal Institute, University of California School of Law, Berkeley 1976
- University of California, Berkeley, Honors for distinguished achievement, and for notable service to the University 1981
- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Congratulations and appreciation for service as Editor-in-Chief, Hastings Law Journal 1954
- University of Southern California Law Alumni, Fountain pen holder 1977
- Western State University College of Law of Orange County, Black American Law Students Association, In Appreciation 1979
- University of California, Berkeley, Diploma, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Economics 1951
University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Diploma, Bachelor of Laws 1953
Judicial robe circa 1977-1981
Nametag, "Hon. Wiley W. Manuel, Supreme Court, San Francisco" circa 1977
Penholder and ashtray in glass case undated
Wooden gavel and circular stand undated
Nameplate, Wiley W. Manuel, Associate Justice circa 1977

Personal and family papers 1939-1981

Biographical sketch, a personal note circa 1981
California Monthly, Hastings Diamond Jubilee issue 1953
Audrey T. Hughes poem honoring Wiley Manuel 1981
John Klee, Jr., Deputy Attorney General, Memorial to Wiley W. Manuel 1981
Wiley W. Manuel resume circa 1981
Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse, Perini News 1983
Civil Procedure notebooks 1950-1951
Code Pleading, Hon. Oliver L. McCaskill, notebooks 1952
Code Pleading, McCaskill, Cases on Code Pleading, Cathcart & Howell, Fall Semester 1952
Code Pleadings, Lecture notes 1952
Community Property, Briefs, notebook 1952
Community Property, notebook 1952
Contracts, Summary, lecture notes and briefs, notebook 1950-1951
Corporations, lecture notes and summary, Manuel, Merrit and Roberts, notebook 1951-1952
Criminal Law and Procedure, notebook 1950-1951
Criminal Law and Procedure, loose notes 1950-1951
Equity, notebooks 1950-1952
Evidence, McBaine, notebooks 1952
Evidence, binder 1952-1953
Federal Taxation, Huberman, Summary, Smalley, Kohn and Manuel 1953
Negotiable Instruments, notes: summary undated
Partnerships, Briefs, notebook undated
Probate Sales Clearing Service listings 1952
Property, Summary, Briefs, Lectures, Reading, notebook undated
Sales, Briefs undated
Sales, Lecture, Vol. II, notebook 1952
Torts, notebook 1950-1951
Trial Practice, Instructor: Merica, notebook 1953
Unicorp. Associations, notebook 1951-1952
Unlabeled notes 1953

Photographs circa 1956-1981

California Attorney General's Office, San Francisco Assistants' Meeting, Civil Division, Wiley W. Manuel with six individuals 1975 October 24
Attorney General Edmund G. "Pat" Brown and staff, San Francisco 1956 August 22
California, Department of Justice group photograph, Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, San Francisco 1968 July 16
California, Department of Justice group photograph, Attorney General Stanley Mosk and staff, San Francisco 1960 April 29
Justice Manuel in judicial robes circa 1977-1981
Unidentified woman circa 1970s
Wiley W. Manuel with unidentified man circa 1970s

Professional papers circa 1960-1981
Desk pad paper undated
Wiley W. Manuel administrative mandamus as seen from the defense, notes, CEB program circa 1960s
California Supreme Court letterhead 1977-1981
Wiley W. Manuel speeches, Association of Municipal Court Clerks 1977-1979