Guide to the Samuel L. Williams papers CEMA 59


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Title: Samuel L. Williams papers
Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 59
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Research Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 14.39 linear feet (26 document boxes, 1 half size document box, 2 oversize flat boxes)
Creator: Williams, Samuel L.
Date (inclusive): 1974-1995
Abstract: The Samuel L. Williams papers, valuable to scholars studying Los Angeles and urban life in general, includes material that represents the Southern California attorney’s civic work, speeches, photographs, and correspondence from 1974-1995. The former California Deputy Attorney General was on the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners when Chief Darryl F. Gates was suspended in the aftermath of the Rodney G. King beating, and was a staff attorney for the McCone Commission which investigated the 1965 Watts Riots. His papers are a collection of work during his time as senior partner of law firm Hufstedler and Kaus, as president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, and as president of the State Bar of California. Also included are materials from when Williams’ was on the board of the Bank of California and the University of Southern California.
Physical Location: A portion of the collection is located at the Southern Regional Library Facility (SRLF).
Language of Material: The collection is in English.
Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research. A portion of the collection is stored offsite. Advance notice is required for retrieval.
Use Restrictions
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Acquisition Information
Donated by Beverly Williams, December 1994.
Processing Information
Biographical Note
Samuel L. Williams was a prominent attorney who distinguished himself as a leader in the legal community. He was prominent in Los Angeles civic affairs, and was an individual who was committed to social justice and civil rights. He was the first African American to serve as president of the California State Bar. He was a member of the boards of several prominent corporations, was president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners and had served as president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.
Williams was staff attorney for the McCone Commission, the Governor’s body that investigated the 1965 Watts riots in Los Angeles. Several decades later, Williams was on the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners in April, 1991 at the time of the inquest involving the Rodney King beating in Los Angeles. Williams is credited with helping change the face of the judiciary in California through his role as chair and as member of nominating commissions for judicial selections in the federal bench in this state. His civic contributions included serving on the boards of the Walt Disney Co., the Bank of California, the Los Angeles Music Center, USC, and several other organizations.
Williams was a star athlete while attending U.C. Berkeley, where he played a quarterback on the football team and played baseball while also being named an Academic All-American. After graduating with a B.A. in criminology in 1955, Williams performed military service in the U.S. Army (1955-57) and held the rank of First Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. He later earned the LL.B. from the University of Southern California School of Law in 1961. From 1962 to 1965 Williams served as Deputy Attorney General in the State of California Department of Justice. He entered private practice with the law firm of Hufstedler and Kaus in 1965 where he was a senior partner before retiring in 1990. Williams died in July 1994.
Williams had a long commitment to the principle of equal justice. His honors included the Maynard Toll Award for lifetime service to the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation, and the Los Angeles county Bar Association’s highest tribute, the Shattuck Price Award. The State legislature honored him with a memorial resolution “for his illustrious record of professional, personal, public and civic achievement.”
Scope and Content
The contents of Samuel L. Williams' papers are comprised of personal, professional materials, and collected research materials generated by the attorney during the period 1974-1995. The bulk of the collection consists of business files from Williams' work on the board of the Bank of California, the Los Angeles Music Center, and the University of Southern California. Other significant files include information on his work with the California Commission on Campaign Financing, California Afro-American Museum foundation, National Bar Association, and Brown Act Investigation.

The rest of Williams' collection is separated into personal, biographical files, and subject files. Williams' personal and biographical files include mainly correspondence, photos, resumé, and various miscellaneous files. The series, subject files, consists of various documents, newspapers, and crime investigation studies he had collected over the years. Topics range from gang violence in Los Angeles to the American Diabetes Association and the Children's Museum.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of Item], Samuel L. Williams papers, CEMA 59. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- African Americans -- Civil rights -- California -- Los Angeles -- History -- 20th century
- Lawyers -- California
- Legal ethics -- California
- California -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- East Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Social conditions -- 20th century
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Trials, litigation, etc. -- 20th century
- Correspondence
- Files (Document groupings)
- Legal documents
- Legal files
- Photographs
- Williams, Samuel L. -- Archives

**Personal and Biographical Files**

- Box 19, Folder 14-16
- Appointment Books 1982-1984

- Box 20, Folder 3
- Case Lists 1985

- Box 19, Folder 5
- Certificates from California Association of Black Lawyers 1982
- Christmas Cards 1984

- Box 18, Folder 8-10
- County of Los Angeles - Certificate 1978
- District Attorney - Certificate 1988
- Framed Los Angeles Lawyer Cover and Article 1978
- Get Well Letters 1988

- oversize 29
- Maynard Toll Award 1993
- Miscellaneous Notes 1991
- Photographs May 1995
- Acquisition Information
- Brought by Pat Phillips

- Box 14, Folder 24-26
- Personal Correspondence 1987-1992
Box 19, Folder 9, Box 19, Folder 7
Box 22, Folder 11-14, Box 23, Folder 1-2, Box 27, Folder 11
Box 1, Folder 2-4, oversize 28
Box 24, Folder 2-4
Box 27, Folder 1-2, 12-15, Box 25, Folder 24-28, Box 26, Folder 1-38
Box 1, Folder 20, Box 7, Folder 3-6, Box 6, Folder 23, Box 18, Folder 11

Program: State Bar Annual Meeting 1982

Miscellaneous Correspondence 1989

Resume and Photographs undated

Scrapbook 1985

Shattuck - Price Awards: Congratulatory Letters 1988

Speech Material undated

Letters and Mail undated

Business Files

Box 1, Folder 1
Box 16, Folder 1-6, Box 10, Folder 1-8, Box 9, Folder 1-3, Box 10, Folder 11
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Box 13, Folder 16

Anti-Apartheid on USC/UC Campuses 1985

Bank of California February 13, 1992

Bancal Tri-State Corporation 1991-1993

Burke for Supervisor 1991

California Afro-American Museum Foundation 1984-1993

California Children's Advocacy Center- University of San Diego 1989-1991

California Commission on Campaign Financing June 18, 1991

California Commission on Campaign Financing Memorandum December 1988

California Afro-American Museum Foundation December 16, 1985

Campaign financing California Commission on General Correspondence: 1989 1989

Court Reform Access V. Affordability April 1989

Dos Williams 1987-1991

Employee Resumes undated

First Street North 1993

France Simledge Resume 1990

Hufstedler, Miller, Kaus, and Beadsley Memorandum and Notes on Meetings of First Street Project 1990

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<td>Memos From Jack Sweeney Re NCBP Meeting Agenda and Executive Council Meeting July 1991</td>
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<td>Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Documentation 1993</td>
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USC Ebonics Support Group 1990
USC General Correspondence 1989
USC South Africa Policy 1985
USC Student Affairs (Trustees Committee) 1982-1992
USC -Tooley - ATO house 1990
USC 1989 Updated Material 1989
The Village at Vermont 1992

Subject Files

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All Us We - The Black Student Publication 1983
ALTA - Care Network 1989
Act Now: Gang Violence Reduction 1989
American Diabetes Association undated
Bradley Re-election Campaign 1989
Broadway/Manchester Revitalization Study 1991
Brochure - Tom Bradley 1983
Burger King Franchise undated
California Magazine December 1981
California Law Business News Article December 16, 1991
Casa Colina Foundation 1990
Chancery Club 1985-1991
Children's Advocacy Institute 1989
Children's Museum March 30, 1989
City Club on Bunker Hill - Member Number X9763 1989
Daily Journal Newspaper 1981-1983
Editorials - KHV-TV/Los Angeles 1987
Facts about USC, Its Quality, Importance and Impact May 4, 1988
Investigation of Glendale's Police Department 1987-1988
Joe Debro 1993
Kim McKenera - Name Change undated
Kingston Restoration Company Limited
LAPD's Black History 1886-1967
LDF: NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund 1979-1989
Lomax Fundraiser October 1993
Los Angeles - City of Mayor's Committee on Black Commissioners 1988-1989
Los Angeles Gang Problem 1989
LDF: NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund 1979-1989
Los Angeles Raiders 1986

Other Descriptive Information
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Box 18, Folder 12-14


An Official Pro! Publication of the NFL Game Day November 22, 1982
OPG Selection - Van Nuys 1991

Plan for the Los Angeles Children’s Plaza- Booklet February 1990
Poppy’s Boys 1991
Preparation of Attorney’s Response to Audit Letter Inquiries 1976
The Promised Land: Making it to the Top - Black Partners in Major Law Firms 1985

Reference: Los Angeles City and Council Committees 1983-1986
San Jose Mercury Newspaper October 14, 1982
Thomas Riveira Center - Latino Assessment Study 1989
To Govern Ourselves: Ballot Initiative in the Los Angeles Area- Booklet 1992
University of California - Berkeley: Athletic Program 1986-1989
University of California - Berkeley: Black Alumni Club Southern California

University of California - Berkeley undated
University of California - Irvine July 1985
University of Southern California Trojan Family Newspaper March 1984
Walter Kim undated
Watts Riots and Inside the McCon Commission undated

Other Descriptive Information
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