



Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program, SG 1, Series 23

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program, SG 1, Series 23
ID:	FA295
Date [inclusive]:	1920-1943
Physical Description:	3.52 Cubic Feet 8 boxes
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation note

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Biographical/Historical note

The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 with an endowment of \$10 million from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness for "benevolent, religious, educational and like purposes." The early grants supported a variety of programs while generally promoting welfare, especially child welfare. Several grants were made in the field of medical research, but the Board of Directors decided in 1920 that this field was already sufficiently supported by other philanthropic organizations.

Despite this decision, by the mid-1920s the chief interest of the Fund had become public health, including mental hygiene, community health, rural hospitals, medical research, and medical education. Other grant areas included war relief, educational and legal research, child welfare, and international medical fellowships.

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Scope and Contents note

One of the earliest programs of the Commonwealth Fund was the Legal Research Program, which began with the organization of the Legal Research Committee in 1920. The Committee divided into two subcommittees in 1921, one which specialized in the study of administrative law, and the other studied possible reforms in the law of evidence.

The first subcommittee investigated the use of "administrative instruments in the enforcement of legislative policy . . . the legal issues involved in their powers and the relation of their powers to the traditional system of Anglo-American law." Two types of broad studies were instituted; the first dealt with administrative powers and their use, the other with specific illustrations of such use drawn from the experience of administrative agencies set up by the federal government and other agencies. Several monographs were published based on the research completed by the subcommittee.

The second original subcommittee analyzed the law of evidence and arranged for a number of fact-finding studies which were published in various university law journals. This subcommittee also issued a report in 1927. In addition to funding legal research on current topics, the Committee also provided support for research in legal history and international law, and made special grants available to professors at Oxford University, Yale University, the Foundation for Research in Legal History at the Columbia University School of Law, Harvard Law School, and the University of Chicago School of Law.

The Commonwealth Fund withdrew its support of legal research in 1943, and the Legal Research Committee was discontinued. A card file index to topics and individuals associated with the Legal Research Program is available. Additional documentation concerning the studies published for the Legal Research Committee is located in the records of the Commonwealth Fund's Division of Publications.

Prominent members of the Legal Research Committee include Henry M. Bates, Charles C. Burlingham, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Grenville Clark, James Parker Hall, Learned Hand, Charles F. Hughes, John C. Milburn, George Welwood Murray, Thomas I. Parkinson, Roscoe Pound, Austin W. Scott, Young B. Smith, and Harlan F. Stone.

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Arrangement note

This series is arranged in two subseries:

Subseries 1 - Legal Research Committee Administrative Files

Subseries 2 - Legal Research Projects

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File Plan note

Former Classification: IX; IV 4B 4;

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Conditions Governing Use note

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Controlled Access Headings

- Law

- Legal issues
- Legal research
- Medical education
- Child psychology
- Child welfare
- Education, Rural
- Hygiene
- Public health
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Child mental health
- War relief
- United States
- Public welfare
- Medicine, Rural
- Medical research
- Mental health
- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.
- Yale University
- Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman
- Phillips Exeter Academy
- Columbia University
- Harkness, Anna M. Richardson
- Harkness, Edward Stephen
- Harvard University
- Social Science Research Council
- Harkness, Charles W.

Other Finding Aids

Other available finding aids describing the Commonwealth Fund records include:

[FA247 Commonwealth Fund Harkness House drawings](#)

[FA276 Commonwealth Fund records, Annual Reports, SG 1, Series 4](#)

[FA277 Commonwealth Fund records, Archives/Library, SG 1, Series 5](#)

[FA278 Commonwealth Fund records, Austrian Program, SG 1, Series 6](#)

[FA279 Commonwealth Fund records, Board of Directors, SG 1, Series 7](#)

[FA280 Commonwealth Fund records, Capital Grants, SG 1, Series 8](#)

[FA281 Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9](#)

[FA282 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics, SG 1, Series 10](#)

[FA283 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Health Studies, SG 1, Series 11](#)

[FA284 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Public Health, SG 1, Series 12](#)

[FA285 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Publications, SG 1, Series 13](#)

[FA286 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Rural Hospitals, SG 1, Series 14](#)

[FA287 Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research, SG 1, Series 15](#)

[FA288 Commonwealth Fund records, English Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 16](#)

[FA289 Commonwealth Fund records, Finance Committee, SG 1, Series 17](#)

[FA290 Commonwealth Fund records, Grants, SG 1, Series 18](#)

[FA291 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19](#)

[FA292 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, SG 1, Series 20](#)

[FA428 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, Fellows Reports, SG 1, Series 20A](#)

[FA293 Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance, SG 1, Series 21](#)

[FA294 Commonwealth Fund records, Interface Program, SG 1, Series 22](#)

[FA295 Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program, SG 1, Series 23](#)

[FA296 Commonwealth Fund records, Living at Home Program, SG 1, Series 24](#)

[FA297 Commonwealth Fund records, Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 25](#)

[FA298 Commonwealth Fund records, Miscellaneous - unprocessed](#)

[FA299 Commonwealth Fund records, Personnel - unprocessed](#)

[FA300 Commonwealth Fund records, Pilgrim Trust, SG 1, Series 28](#)

[FA301 Commonwealth Fund records, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency, SG 1, Series 29](#)

[FA302 Commonwealth Fund records, Reference Files, SG 1, Series 30](#)

[FA303 Commonwealth Fund records, Reports of the General Director, SG 1, Series 31](#)

[FA304 Commonwealth Fund records, Treasurer, SG 1, Series 32](#)

[FA305 Commonwealth Fund records, Turndown Lists, SG 1, Series 33 - unprocessed](#)

[FA306 Commonwealth Fund records, Vertical File \(R. Fitz\), SG 1, Series 34 - unprocessed](#)

[FA307 Commonwealth Fund records, Visual Materials, SG 1, Series 35](#)

[FA389 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Historical Files, SG 1, Series 1](#)

[FA390 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Officers Files, SG 1, Series 2](#)

[FA429 Commonwealth Fund records, President, Margaret E. Mahoney, SG 2, Series 1](#)

[FA430 Commonwealth Fund records, Book Program, SG 2, Series 2](#)

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Collection Inventory

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Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, September-December, 1928	box 1	folder 4
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1929	box 1	folder 5
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Legal Research Projects

Physical Description: 4 Box(es)

Arrangement note

This subseries is arranged in three parts:

Part 1 - Administrative Law and Practice

Part 2 - International Law

Part 3 - Law of Evidence

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