



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:	3.04 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.

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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.

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](#)[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Legal Research Committee Administrative Files, 1920-1946

Physical Description: 4 box(es)

Title/Description	Instances	
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - James P. Hall, 1920-1921	box 1	folder 1
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - James P. Hall, 1922-1924	box 1	folder 2
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - James P. Hall, 1925-1928	box 1	folder 3
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
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1930	box 1	folder 6
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1931	box 1	folder 7
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1932	box 1	folder 8
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1933-1935	box 1	folder 9
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1936-1938	box 1	folder 10
Chairman's Correspondence and Memoranda - George W. Murray, 1939-1943	box 1	folder 11
Committee on the Establishment of a Permanent Organization for the Improvement of Law - Correspondence, Memoranda and Minutes, 1922-1923	box 1	folder 12
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Interoffice Memoranda, 1924-1936	box 2	folder 18
Members' Correspondence - Henry M. Bates, 1928-1933	box 2	folder 19
Members' Correspondence - Henry M. Bates, 1934-1943	box 2	folder 20
Members' Correspondence - Charles C. Burlingham, 1921-1944	box 2	folder 21
Members' Correspondence - Benjamin N. Cardozo, 1921-1936	box 2	folder 22
Members' Correspondence - Grenville Clark, 1931-1943	box 2	folder 23
Members' Correspondence - Learned Hand, 1930-1944	box 2	folder 24
Members' Correspondence - Charles E. Hughes, 1926-1936	box 2	folder 25
Members' Correspondence - John G. Milburn, 1920-1930	box 2	folder 26
Members' Correspondence - Thomas I. Parkinson, 1934-1943	box 2	folder 27
Members' Correspondence - Roscoe Pound, 1920-1927	box 3	folder 28
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Members' Correspondence - Austin W. Scott, 1937-1943	box 3	folder 30
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Scope and Contents note

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Yale University, November 26, 1923-October 24, 1930

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Research Proposals (Morgan to Workingmen's), 1920-1925	box 3	folder 41
Research Proposals (Blackburn to Yale), 1927	box 3	folder 42
Research Proposals (Boston University to California), 1928	box 4	folder 43

Research Proposals (Colorado to Minnesota), 1928	box 4	folder 44
Research Proposals (Montana to Yale), 1928	box 4	folder 45
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Research Proposals (Committee to Cornell), 1930-1934	box 4	folder 47
Research Proposals (Finch to Harvard), 1930-1934	box 4	folder 48
Research Proposals (Johns Hopkins University), 1930-1934	box 4	folder 49
Research Proposals (Legal to National), 1930-1934	box 4	folder 50
Research Proposals (Ploscowe to Wisconsin), 1930-1934	box 4	folder 51
Research Proposals (American to Futrell), 1935-1946	box 4	folder 52
Research Proposals (Graubart to State), 1935-1946	box 4	folder 53
Research Proposals (United to Yale), 1935-1946	box 4	folder 54

Legal Research Projects, 1921-1951

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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Administrative Law and Practice		
Title/Description	Instances	
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Administrative Powers and Methods of the Department of Agriculture - Correspondence and Memoranda, 1931-1935	box 5	folder 56
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Blue Sky Laws - Correspondence and Memoranda, 1932-1951	box 5	folder 58
Blue Sky Laws - Financial Data, 1932-1940	box 5	folder 59
Columbia University - American Legal History - Foundation for Research in Legal History (Correspondence, Finances and Memoranda), 1930-1932	box 5	folder 60

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Columbia University - American Legal History - Foundation for Research in Legal History (Correspondence, Finances and Memoranda), 1937-1940	box 5	folder 62
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Columbia University - Growth and Effect of Administrative Boards in the United States (Financial Data), 1934-1940	box 5	folder 67
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Rule Making Power - Correspondence, Finances and Memoranda, 1926-1929	box 7	folder 87
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Study of the Building Department of the City of New York - Correspondence, Finances and Memoranda, 1936-1943	box 7	folder 89
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Yale University School of Law - Sociopsychological Implications of Criminal Law (Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports), 1927-1930	box 8	folder 113