

# A Guide to the Historical litigation and claim files of the Office of the Attorney General, Finance and Transportation Division, 1947-1989

Office of the Attorney General, Finance and Transportation Division 1947-1989  
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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 31978, 32130, 33143, 33307

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1947-1989

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## Descriptive Summary

**Accession Number**

31978, 32130, 33143, 33307

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Virginia. Office of the Attorney General

**Extent**

22 cu. ft. (22 boxes)

**Repository**

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

Access is restricted to the Office of the Attorney General and those with the written permission of that office. Restrictions will be removed 50 years after the records were received by the Library of Virginia (records received 1983).

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

### Acquisition Information

Accession 31978, transferred December 20, 1983.

### Preferred Citation

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## Historical Information

The Office of the Attorney General originated in medieval England. While representing the king in his courts, the Attorney General gradually assumed the role of legal advisor to the government and all its agencies. In Virginia, the first Attorney General was commissioned in 1643. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 ended the Attorney General's connection with royal authority, but the state constitution adopted that year continued the office under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The constitution adopted in 1851 provided for the popular election of the Attorney General, rendering him independent of all three branches of government. On April 27, 1927, the General Assembly passed a state government reorganization act that created the Department of Law, with the Attorney General serving as the chief executive officer. The Office represents the interests of the Commonwealth in civil cases in which the Commonwealth or any of its agencies or officials is named as a party, and in criminal cases on appeal to the Court of Appeals of Virginia and the Supreme Court of Virginia. In cases involving federal law, the Attorney General also represents the Commonwealth's interests. The Office also defends the constitutionality of state laws when they are challenged in court, represents consumers in utility matters before the State Corporation Commission, and collects debts owed to state agencies, hospitals and universities. Additionally, the Attorney General serves as the legal advisor to the Governor and more than 200 state agencies, boards, commissions and institutions. He renders official opinions upon the written request of the Governor, members of the General Assembly, members of the judiciary, state officials, and local constitutional officers.

## Scope and Content

This series documents major litigation and claims of historical value representing the Commonwealth, its agencies and personnel, before all state and federal courts. May include pleadings, supporting documentation, legal briefs, transcripts, evidentiary exhibits, memoranda, and correspondence.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in original order.

## Contents List

### Historical litigation and claims (Accession 31978), 1947-1980.

#### Extent

Extent: 4 cu. ft. (4 boxes)

#### Commissioner v. Mitchell, 1977.

##### Box 1

**McGlothin v. Commissioner, 1973.**

**Box 1**

**Commissioner v. Nettleton, 1972.**

**Box 1**

**Commisioner v. Hooker Furniture, 1973.**

**Box 1**

**Hornback v. Commissioner, 1964.**

**Box 1**

**Commissioner v. Howard, 1974.**

**Box 1**

**Commissioner v. Hundley, 1970.**

**Box 1**

**Teer v. Commonwealth, 1971.**

**Box 1**

**Trembley v. Commonwealth, 1973.**

**Box 1**

**Commissioner v. Gooding, 1973.**

**Box 1**

**Heflin v. Virginia Dept. of Transportation, 1976.**

**Box 1**

**Stewart v. Commissioner, 1972.**

**Box 1**

**Commissioner v. Lowe, 1974.**

**Box 2**

**Main v. Commissioner, 1966.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Martin, 1977.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Fairmac, 1971.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Foster, 1976.**

**Box 2**

**Fuller v. Commissioner, 1976.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Currier, 1972.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Davis, 1980.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Dukes, 1971.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Easley, 1974.**

**Box 2**

**West v. Anderson, 1947.**

**Box 2**

**Commissioner v. Reynolds, 1966.**

**Box 3**

**Richmond Shopping Center v. Fugate, 1977.**

**Box 3**

**Commissioner v. Knight, 1977.**

**Box 3**

**Leftwich v. Commissioner, 1976.**

**Box 3**

**Campbell v. Commissioner, 1969.**

**Box 3**

**Consolidated Dairy v. Commissioner, 1975.**

**Box 3**

**Commissioner v. Bradshaw, 1970.**

**Box 3**

**Brault v. Hollerman, 1976.**

**Box 3**

**Commissioner v. Carter, 1976.**

**Box 4**

**Virginia Dept. of Health v. Britton, 1972.**

**Box 4**

**Troy v. Walker, 1978.**

**Box 4**

**Plummer v. Virginia Dept. of Conservation, 1969.**

**Box 4**

**Portsmouth v. Sweet, 1970.**

**Box 4**

**Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina Line v. Commissioner, 1971.**

**Box 4**

**Old Dominion Iron and Steel v. City of Richmond, 1971.**

**Box 4**

**Commissioner v. Bell, 1969.**

**Box 4**

**Atlantic Construction Corp. v. Johnson and the Virginia Dept. of Highways, 1967-1968.**

**Box 4**

**Historical litigation and claims, 1961-1980.**

**Extent**

Extent: 5 cu. ft. (5 boxes)

**State Highway Commissioner v. Allmond, 1977-1979.**

**Box 1**

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, 1961-1976 c..**

**Box 1**

**State Highway and Transportation Commissioner v. C.B. Edwards Co., Inc., 1977.**

**Box 1**

**Pepco v. Fugate, State Highway and Transportation Commissioner, 1970-1980 c..**

**Box 2**

**Pepco v. Fugate, State Highway and Transportation Commissioner, 1970-1980 c..**

**Box 3**

**Pepco v. Fugate, State Highway and Transportation Commissioner, 1970-1980 c..**

**Box 4**

**Troy v. Waller, 1977 c..**

**Box 5**

**Historical litigation and claims (Accession 33143), 1977-1985.**

**Extent**

Extent: 8 cu. ft. (8 boxes)

**Transportation Section: EEOC, 1978-1985.**

**Box 1-3, 5**

**Transportation Section: Bowers v. Commonwealth, Dept. of Transportation and Highways, 1978-1985.**

**Box 4**

**Transportation Section: Gregg v. Commonwealth (Supreme Court of Virginia 831738), 1978-1985.**

**Box 5**

**General Administration Section: Gairola v. Commonwealth, 1977-1985.**

**Box 6-7**

**General Administration Section: Dept. of Engineering and Buildings (General Services), 1978-1985.**

**Box 8**

**Transportation Section: Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) cases, 1978-1985.**

**Box 8**

**Transportation Section: Opinions, 1978-1985.**

**Box 8**

## **Historical litigation and claims (Accession 33307), 1981-1989.**

**Extent**

Extent: 5 cu. ft. (5 boxes)

**Finance and War Veterans Claims Section: Gerald L. Baliles vs. Edward J. Mazur, 1982 c..**

**Box 1**

**Finance and War Veterans Claims Section: Correspondence and general files - Interoffice memos, 1983-1987.**

**Box 2**

**Transportation Section: Correspondence and general files - Treasury Board meeting files and minutes, 1986-1987.**

**Box 3**

**General Administration Section: Case files - Dept. of Motor Vehicles (Supreme Court of Virginia), 1981-1989.**

**Box 4**

**Finance and War Veterans Claims Section: Case files, 1981-1986.**

**Box 5**