

# A Guide to the Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997

Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997  
1963-1997

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A Collection in Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Archives 009  
Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Archives, Washington and Lee University  
2001

## History

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

009

**Language**

English

**Physical Characteristics**

47 cu. ft.

**Repository**

Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Archives, School of Law, Washington and Lee University

## Administrative Information

**Access**

There are no restrictions on access.

**Preferred Citation**

Frank R. Parker Papers 1963-1997, Ms 009, Lewis F. Powell Jr. Archives, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

## Biographical/Historical Information

Frank Ruff Parker III was born on May 11, 1940 in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania to Marjorie LeClair Parker and Frank R. Parker, Jr. He attended public schools in Steubenville, Ohio, and received his B.A. from Oberlin College in Ohio. After studies at Oxford University in England, Parker received an Erwin N. Griswold Scholarship to Harvard Law School, where he obtained his L.L.B. degree in 1966. Married three times, to Virginia Foster Durr, Carolyn Parker, and Ann Burlock Lawver, Parker had four children: Barbara Parker Golden, Stephanie Parker Weaver, Kevin Parker, and Ian Parker.

He began his legal career as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington from 1966-1968. In 1968, Parker moved to Jackson, Mississippi, to work for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. He became chief Counsel of the Jackson office in 1976, where he litigated dozens of voting rights, public employment, and segregation cases. This work included the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Connor v. Finch*.

In 1981, Parker moved to Washington to direct the Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project, where he helped secure from Congress a 25-year extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. During his 12 years as Director of the Voting Rights Project, he launched a program to enforce the guarantees of the Voting Rights Act on a nationwide level through litigation and public education, and was a leader in the five-year struggle to enact the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. In 1990, he authored an award-winning book on the impact of the Voting Rights Act in Mississippi, *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965*. He co-founded the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. He also wrote eight book chapters, seven law review articles, and numerous case notes, conference reports, and articles.

In 1993, Parker accepted a position at the District of Columbia School of Law, where he taught from 1993-1995. He was a visiting professor at American University Washington College of Law in 1995-1996, and Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1996-1997. At the time of his death on July 10, 1997, Parker had accepted an appointment as a visiting law professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

## Scope and Content Information

Biographical materials include correspondence, resumes, photos, and memorabilia. Obituaries and materials from the memorial service in Parker's honor at the U.S. Department of Justice are also here. Personal papers include correspondence and notebooks from Parker's student days at Oxford, England. Audio and video recordings are mostly interviews given by or conducted by Parker on the subject of voting rights. Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under Law papers document Parker's work for the Committee's voting rights project at both its Mississippi and Washington, D.C. offices. Included are correspondence subject files, and case files. Redistricting in Lee County Mississippi is heavily documented. Writings include printed versions of much of Parker's writing from throughout his career; research materials for *Black Votes Count*; research materials and a typescript for the unpublished book *For the Common Good: The Case for Affirmative Action*. The teaching papers include subject files and class materials from Parker's years of teaching law at the District of Columbia School of Law, American University's Washington College of Law, and Washington and Lee University School of Law.

## Arrangement

Only rough sorting of this collection has been accomplished. Materials are generally not arranged within the

potential series described in the scope and content note.

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**Extent** .5 cu. ft.

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**Box 3**

**Extent** .5 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 2.5 cu.ft.

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#### **Washington Office 1991-1992**

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**Extent** 1 cu. ft.

##### **Subject Files re Mississippi Desegregation**

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**Extent** 1 cu. ft.

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**Extent** .5 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 1 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 1 cu. ft.

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**Extent** .5 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 1 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 7 cu. ft.

**American University Washington College of Law 1993-1995**

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**Extent** 5.5 cu. ft.

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**Extent** 2 cu. ft.