

Gregory H. Swanson papersMSS.2024.01

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1948-2022

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.2024.01

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/1628

Unit Date

1948-2022

Language

English

Extent

3.33 Linear Feet (4 containers)

Repository

Arthur J. Morris Law Library Special Collections

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions on access to the materials in this collection.

Conditions Governing Use

Because of the nature of this collection, copyright status varies across the materials. Copyright is assumed to be held by the original creators of the content that has not yet entered the public domain.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gregory Swanson's daughter, Karen Swanson, donated these items to the University of Virginia's Law Library on February 14, 2024.

Biographical / Historical

Gregory Hayes Swanson (1924-1992) was a US lawyer who primarily practiced civil rights and tax law. In 1950, Swanson became the first Black student at the University of Virginia, successfully suing in federal court for admission after being denied entry because of his race.

Swanson was born in Danville, Virginia, on May 1, 1924, the son of Pearl Ann Adams and Benjamin James Swanson. In 1941, he graduated from John M. Langston High School, and four years later, he received an AB degree from Howard University, majoring in political science. In 1948, Swanson received an LLB degree from the Howard University School of Law.

Gregory Swanson began practicing law soon after graduating from Howard University. In 1948, he accepted a position with the firm Hill, Martin, and Robinson in Richmond, Virginia, and two years later, he opened a private practice in Martinsville, Virginia.

In November 1949, Swanson applied to the LLM degree program at the University of Virginia School of Law. The Law School initially approved his application, but the University's Board of Visitors overruled the School and denied Swanson's admission because he was Black. With the support of Hill, Martin, and Robinson and the Virginia Chapter of the NAACP, Swanson filed a complaint against the University of Virginia in federal court. In 1950, the court ordered the University to admit Swanson, and he enrolled that fall. Swanson faced a harsh climate of racial prejudice at the University of Virginia but endeavored to participate in the University community and push the institution to be more inclusive.

After attending the University of Virginia for one year, Swanson returned to private practice in Martinsville. In 1957, he opened a law practice in Alexandria, Virginia. Then, in 1961, Swanson accepted a position at the Internal Revenue Service, where he remained until his retirement in 1984.

Gregory H. Swanson died in 1992. He was survived by his wife of thirty-seven years, Betty Oliver Swanson, and his two daughters, Karen M. Swanson and Camille C. Swanson.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains one part of Gregory H. Swanson's professional papers. They primarily document his thoughts on civil rights and his work in this area during the 1950s. The collection also includes Swanson's class photograph from the Howard University School of Law and several posthumous awards given to his daughter, Karen Swanson.

In 2024, the University of Virginia Law Library processed into its collection, MSS-2024-02, a copy of a Virginia General Assembly joint resolution commemorating Swanson's life and legacy.

Around 1980, another part of Gregory Swanson's papers was donated to Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Those materials were processed into Collection 100: Gregory H. Swanson papers.

Keywords

lawyers

Civil rights

Civil rights -- Virginia

Discrimination in capital punishment

Description of Subordinate Components

Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia case file

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248645

Unit Date 1943-1952

Biographical / Historical

On July 6, 1951, Albert Jackson, Jr., a Black man, was tried and convicted of raping a white woman in the Corporation Court of the City of Charlottesville. A jury sentenced Jackson to death.

In 1952, Gregory H. Swanson and the law firm of Hill, Martin, and Robinson represented Jackson when he appealed the decision in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. In that case, *Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, the Court considered three questions that Jackson's lawyers had raised about the original trial: "1. Was there sufficient credible and reliable evidence of rape to sustain a conviction? 2. Was the confession of the defendant properly admitted? 3. Were the statements of the Commonwealth Attorney prejudicial to the defendant?"

After considering these questions, the Court of Appeals upheld the original verdict and sentence. In 1951 and 1952, civil rights activists in Virginia cited the case against Albert Jackson, Jr. as an example of how the state's judicial system typically imposed harsher sentences on Black felons when compared to white felons convicted for the same or similar crimes.

Scope and Contents

Gregory H. Swanson compiled this case file while working on *Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia* (1952), which was heard in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. It contains Swanson's correspondence, notes, briefs, research materials, and other items that document his participation in the case. The file also includes records documenting Swanson's petition to commute Jackson's sentence.

Arrangement

The case file retains Gregory Swanson's original order and arrangement of items. Archivists at the Arthur J. Morris Law Library have done this to preserve relationships between the items that might have been significant to Swanson.

Briefs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248862

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file contains printed briefs for *Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia* that the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia issued. These include a copy of "Record Number 3953", five copies of the "Brief on Behalf of the Commonwealth," and three copies of the "Reply Brief for Plaintiff-In-Error."

Silas Rogers v. Commonwealth of Virginia - Reply Brief for Plaintiff in Error

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248863

Unit Date 1943

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a printed copy of the "Reply Brief for Plaintiff in Error" for *Silas Rogers vs. Commonwealth of Virginia*. The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia heard this case in 1943.

Argument Docket Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia at Richmond Term 1951-1952

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248864

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file contains two printed copies of the "Argument Docket" for the 1951-1952 term of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia at Richmond. The docket lists *Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia*.

Annotated case citations

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248865

Unit Date circa 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a collection of case citations. Swanson heavily annotated the citations with handwritten notes.

Trial notes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248866

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file contains trial notes that Gregory H. Swanson created and collected for Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia. There are both handwritten and typescript notes in this file.

Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248867

Unit Date 1951

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is collection of Gregory H. Swanson's correspondence that relates to Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia. The correspondents include: Frances Davis (Albert Jackson, Jr.'s aunt), Spottswood Robinson, III, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), S.A. Cunningham (Court Reporter), Charles E. (C.E.) Moran (Charlottesville Corporation Court Clerk), and Martin A. Martin.

Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248868

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a collection of Gregory H. Swanson's correspondence that relates to Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia. The correspondents include: Spottswood Robinson, III, T.J. Sellers, Sarah Patton-Boyle, R. Watson Sadler (Judge, Corporation Court of Charlottesville), Randolph L. White, Martin A. Martin, Charles E. (C.E.) Moran (Clerk for the Corporation Court of Charlottesville), Frances Davis (Albert Jackson, Jr.'s aunt), Albert Jackson, Jr., S.A. Cunningham (Court Reporter), George Lex, M.B. Watts (Clerk for the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia), and Frederick T. Gray (Assistant Attorney General of Virginia).

Petition for Writ of Error

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248869

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628970] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a typescript copy of the "Petition for Writ of Error" for Albert Jackson, Jr. v. Commonwealth of Virginia.

Records documenting Swanson's attempt to commute Albert Jackson, Jr.'s sentence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248870

Unit Date 1952

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file contains legal records and correspondence that document Gregory H. Swanson's work to have the Governor of Virginia commute Albert Jackson, Jr.'s death sentence. This effort occurred after the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia ruled in favor of the Commonwealth. The file includes a typescript petition to Virginia Governor John S. Battle, a letter from John S. Battle denying the petition, a copy of the final order for execution, and other legal documents.

Civil rights subject file

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248642

Unit Date 1950-1965

Scope and Contents

During the 1950s and 1960s, Gregory H. Swanson compiled this file of news clippings, publications, and other documents related to the subject of civil rights. It includes content written by and about Gregory H. Swanson.

Arrangement

Gregory H. Swanson stored these items in a single folder. While processing collection MSS 2024-01 at the Arthur J. Morris Law Library, archivists removed the items and gave each of them their own folder. The Library took this action to facilitate the preservation of collection.

Archivists arranged the new item folders into an order that is identical to the order they found in Swanson's original folder. They did this to maintain relationships between the items in this file that might have been significant to Swanson.

Danville Register - Family Weekly section

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248770

Unit Date 1965-07-04

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Incomplete edition of the Family Weekly section of the Danville Register containing parts of two articles: "Sargent Shriver: Fireworks in a Gray-Flannel Package" and "What Freedom Means to Me" by John H. Glenn.

Letter to Gregory H. Swanson from the U.S. Department of Justice

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248771

Unit Date 1957-01-03

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Arthur B. Caldwell, Chief of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Section, acknowledges the receipt of another letter from Swanson.

"The Supreme Court Implementing a Decision" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248772

Unit Date circa 1954

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Short article in an unknown publication reporting on the appointment of the first Black pages in the US Supreme Court.

"The Illusion of Security" - The Atlantic Monthly - George F. Kennan

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248773

Unit Date circa 1954

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"The Essence of Justice" - print advertisement

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248774

Unit Date circa 1950-1960

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Print advertisement from the Container Corporation of America quoting the Institutes of Justinian.

"Man Seeks Woman with Lots of Pull" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248775

Unit Date circa 1950-1960

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Short article in an unknown publication reporting that there is a personal advertisement with a man looking to meet a woman who owns a tractor.

"Broyhill's Position" - unknown publication - Jules Bernfeld

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248776

Unit Date circa 1950-1960

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

In this letter to a newspaper editor, Jules Bernfeld of Alexandria writes their opinion about Congressman Joel Broyhill's position for signing the "Southern Manifesto."

"An Honor Well Deserved" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248777

Unit Date 1950-09-23

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Short newspaper article about the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. Ralph Bunche.

Letters to the editor sharing opinions about Swanson v. University of Virginia - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248778

Unit Date 1951

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This clipping includes 3 letters to the editor of an unknown newspaper supporting Gregory H. Swanson's admission to the University of Virginia in 1951.

"An Honor Well Deserved" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248779

Unit Date 1950-09-23

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Short newspaper article about the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. Ralph Bunche.

Letters to the editor sharing opinions about Swanson v. University of Virginia - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248780

Unit Date 1951

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This clipping includes 3 letters to the editor of an unknown newspaper supporting Gregory H. Swanson's admission to the University of Virginia in 1951.

"Delayed Justice" - Washington Post - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248871

Unit Date 1956-11-29

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of a letter that Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson suggests that an earlier editorial in the Washington Post, "Babel," might have had a role in persuading the administration of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to make its position on desegregation more clear. Swanson then expresses his opinion that efforts to end racial segregation in the United States can no longer be delayed.

"Segregation Ban Anniversary Marked by Prayer, Protest" - Associated Press

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248873

Unit Date 1957-05-17

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This newspaper clipping contains an article reporting on the "Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom."

"Psychiatrists Say Segregation Injures Individuals, Communities Which Practice It" - Associated Press - Robert Goldstein

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248874

Unit Date circa 1955

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clipping of an article reporting about a new study on the psychological aspects of racial desegregation.

"Babel" - Washington Post - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248875

Unit Date 1956-11-02

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of a letter Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson, responding to an earlier editorial titled "Babel", expresses his opinion that President Dwight D. Eisenhower ought to be more open and honest about his positions on racial desegregation.

There are multiple copies of this editorial letter in Swanson's civil rights subject file.

"Diem on Democracy" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248876

Unit Date circa 1957

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a clipping of an opinion piece in an unknown publication. The unidentified author praises President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam for his position on democracy.

"First Negro to Attend U. of Virginia Sees Need for "Massive Assistance" - Washington Post - Susanna McBee

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248877

Unit Date 1958-09-01

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This clipping from the Washington Post reports on Gregory Swanson's past experience as a University of Virginia student and describes some of his thoughts about racial desegregation.

"Recommendations from Gregory H. Swanson, President of the Martinsville Branch of the NAACP to the Executive Committee

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248878

Unit Date 1957-01-14

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Scope and Contents

In this document, Gregory Swanson, as the President of the Martinsville Branch of the NAACP, proposes 10 resolutions for the branch to adopt in 1957.

"Statement from the Fairfax County Council on Human Relations"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248879

Unit Date 1958

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The Fairfax County Council on Human Relations issued this statement in response to events surrounding the desegregation of public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. The statement points out differences between Little Rock and "Massive Resistance" in Virginia and it discusses concerns about delays in desegregating Northern Virginia's schools.

NAACP v. State of Alabama - Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of Alabama

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248880

Unit Date 1956

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Print copy of the Petition.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas - Opinion

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248881

Unit Date 1954

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Print copy of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

"Handbook on Catholic School Integration" - Catholic Committee of the South

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248882

Unit Date 1956

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The handbook describes the "Catholic Approach" to racial desegregation and the integration of Catholic schools.

"What Should Society Expect From a University?" - University of Chicago Roundtable

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248883

Unit Date 1949-03-20

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This pamphlet contains a published transcript of a radio round table discussion between Laird Bell, Arthur Holly Compton, and Ralph W. Tyler. Also, it includes an essay called "A Sense of the Future" by J. Bronowski.

The pamphlet is annotated with handwritten notes.

"When the Barriers Fall" - Time magazine

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248884

Unit Date 1953-08-31

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is an article in Time magazine about how racial segregation is changing in the U.S. South. There is a short passage about the University of Virginia: "When the Harvard football team arrived six years ago at the University of Virginia with a Negro tackle, cries of pain could be heard all over town. Today Virginia makes no such fuss: it has grown accustomed to unsegregated student meetings, even allows Negro nurses to serve on the university hospital staff."

"An Address to Christians and the Churches Concerning Race Relations"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248885

Unit Date 1951-01

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The Church Federation of Greater Chicago published this pamphlet to share its views about racism and racial discrimination in the Chicago region.

Pages from the Danville Register newspaper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248886

Unit Date 1965-06-06

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Several pages from the June 6, 1965 edition of the Danville Register.

"Supreme Court Takes on the States" - U.S. News and World Report

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248887

Unit Date 1956-04-20

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This article reports on a growing movement in the U.S. Congress to protect the authority of state governments in the wake of a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions overturning states laws. The state laws discussed include those that mandate racial segregation.

"Letter to the Editor" - Henry County Journal - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248888

Unit Date 1955-05-08

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of a letter Gregory Swanson wrote to the editor of the Henry County Journal. Swanson expresses his opinion that the United States should first attempt to eradicate inequality at home before "embarking upon a global quest for freedom."

"Bar Has Special Mission 'In Times Like These'" - Greensboro Daily News - Irving Carlyle

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248889

Unit Date 1956-11-18

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a clipping of an article written by Irving Carlyle, an attorney from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Carlyle is the leader of the opposition to the Pearsall Plan, a strategy to resist federally-mandated racial integration in North Carolina's schools. Carlyle argues that attempts by lawyers to uphold segregation and resist the Supreme Court will undermine democracy and the rule of law.

"Virginia Negroes Back Integration" - Greensboro Daily News

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248890

Unit Date 1956-10-25

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of an article reporting on a meeting of the Pittsylvania County Citizens Executive Committee. At that meeting, 500 Black residents of the County unanimously voted to support the racial integration of schools, even at the price of having the school system closed.

The article reports that Gregory Swanson, who was not invited to the event, spoke. It is reported that he said, "Anyone who asks you to sleep on your rights while they are being stolen-I'd say get thee behind me ... I have been moved by this meeting tonight. I am moved to see that we had some Negroes who hadn't sold their birthright for a mess of pottage. This thing is like a snowball going down hill. Nobody can stop it. But you can't sit idly by ... Stay with it. I was crippled, from lack of opportunities. Most of you have been crippled. But stay with it. The people of Alabama are still walking, not riding those buses. We can do the same thing here."

"Babel" - Washington Post - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248891

Unit Date 1956-11-02

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of a letter Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson, responding to an earlier editorial titled "Babel", expresses his opinion that President Dwight D. Eisenhower ought to be more open and honest about his positions on racial desegregation.

There are multiple copies of this editorial letter in Swanson's civil rights subject file.

"Babel" - Washington Post - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248892

Unit Date 1956-11-02

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of a letter Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson, responding to an earlier editorial titled "Babel", expresses his opinion that President Dwight D. Eisenhower ought to be more open and honest about his positions on racial desegregation.

There are multiple copies of this editorial letter in Swanson's civil rights subject file.

"Babel" - Washington Post

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248893

Unit Date 1956-10-25

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This opinion article from the editors of the Washington Post argues that "too many unauthorized spokesmen have been telling the country what the President thinks about the problems arising out of school desegregation."

On November 2, 1956, the Washington Post published Gregory H. Swanson's response to this editorial article. Swanson collected multiple copies of the response in his civil rights subject file.

Congress and Equality: The Bulletin of the American Council on Human Rights - Volume 4, Number 2

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248894

Unit Date 1953, Spring

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Scope and Contents

"Congress and Equality" shares news about the American Council of Human Rights. The focus of this issue is the Council's program proposals for U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"Undermining Justice" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248895

Unit Date circa 1955

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a clipping of a newspaper editorial from an unknown publication. It supports a recent statement in defense of the U.S. Supreme Court by a group of 100 lawyers.

"Little Microphones Set in the Heart Make Graphs of Ills for Doctors" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248896

Unit Date circa 1955

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a newspaper clipping of an article reporting on the development of miniature microphones to diagnose heart conditions.

"Voting Fraud" - unknown publication

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248897

Unit Date circa 1955

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a clipping of an editorial published in an unknown newspaper. It argues that the U.S. President and Department of Justice should do more to protect the rights of Black citizens to vote.

The note "Respond with letter" is handwritten on the clipping.

"Babel" - typescript copies - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248898

Unit Date 1956-10-26

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Scope and Contents

These are typescript copies of a letter that Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson, responding to an earlier editorial titled "Babel", expresses his opinion that President Dwight D. Eisenhower ought to be more open and honest about his positions on racial desegregation.

The Washington Post published the letter on November 2, 1956. Swanson kept multiple copies of the published letter in his civil rights subject file.

"Babel" - manuscript copy - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248899

Unit Date 1956-10-26

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 40 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a handwritten copy of a letter that Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson, responding to an earlier editorial titled "Babel", expresses his opinion that President Dwight D. Eisenhower ought to be more open and honest about his positions on racial desegregation.

The Washington Post published the letter on November 2, 1956. Swanson kept multiple copies of the published letter in his civil rights subject file.

Printed opinions for Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, and Bolling v. Sharpe

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248900

Unit Date 1954-05-17

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Scope and Contents

These are printed copies of two opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court. The opinion for Bolling v. Sharpe was filed inside of the opinion for Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

"Segregation and the Schools" - The Public Affairs Committee

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248901

Unit Date 1954-06

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The Public Affairs Committee, a non-profit educational organization, published this pamphlet in cooperation with the NAACP. The pamphlet provides some background and context for questions surrounding the racial integration of U.S. schools after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.

The pamphlet is annotated with a few handwritten notes.

Letter to the Editor of the Washington Post - Gregory H. Swanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248902

Unit Date 1956-11-26

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a typescript copy of a letter that Gregory H. Swanson wrote to the editor of the Washington Post. In the letter, Swanson suggests that an earlier editorial in the Washington Post, "Babel," might have had a role in persuading the administration of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to make its position on desegregation more clear. Swanson then expresses his opinion that efforts to end racial segregation in the United States can no longer be delayed.

The Washington Post published an edited version of this letter on November 29, 1956, titled "Delayed Justice."

Letter from Gregory H. Swanson to Sarah Patton Boyle and attached newspaper clipping

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248903

Unit Date 1955-05-19

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Gregory H. Swanson writes to thank Sarah Patton Boyle on behalf of the Delta Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Danville Chapter of the NAACP. On May 18, 1955, Sarah Patton Boyle spoke at a public meeting hosted by the two groups.

The letter includes a newspaper clipping from the Danville Register reporting on the event.

"Especially for You and Your House" - Virginia Citizens Conference

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248904

Unit Date 1957-05-04

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This pamphlet from the Virginia Citizens Conference provides instructions for paying the poll tax and registering to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"The Supreme Court: The Fading Line" - Time magazine

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248905

Unit Date 1953-12-21

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a clipping of an article from Time magazine. The article reports on the potential role of the U.S. Supreme Court in ending racial segregation in the United States. A handwritten note was attached to the article.

Copy of a letter from Phineas Indritz to Joseph D. Stecher

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248906

Unit Date 1956-03-15

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 47 (folder)

Scope and Contents

In this letter, Phineas Indritz, an attorney, argues to Joseph D. Stecher, Secretary of the American Bar Association (A.B.A), that the A.B.A. should no longer require lawyers to disclose their race before admission to the association.

"Declaration of Constitutional Principles"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248908

Unit Date 1956-03-12

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 48 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This is a copy of a resolution presented in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives arguing that U.S. Supreme Court cases that overturn state racial segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Correspondence with Sarah Patton Boyle

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248644

Unit Date 1961

Text [35007008628988] 2 (box)

Container 49 (folder)

Extent 3 letters

Scope and Contents

In 1961, Sarah Patton Boyle, a white civil rights activist living in Charlottesville, Va., initiated this brief correspondence with Gregory Swanson. Boyle was writing a book and wanted Swanson's permission to publish quotes he made in an earlier series of correspondence with her. She also inquired about his personal life and views on Virginia's current state of civil rights.

Swanson agreed to allow Patton Boyle to publish his quotes, and he shared news about his family and career. He ended his letter to Boyle by writing that he believed Virginia's political leadership would only accept racial integration under external pressure.

Howard University School of Law Faculty and Graduating Class of 1948 photograph

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248646

Unit Date 1948

Photographs [35007008629002] 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

This photograph includes a portrait of Gregory H. Swanson.

Awards and honors

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248643

Unit Date 1959-2022

Scope and Contents

These are awards and honors that Gregory H. Swanson received. Some awards were given to him posthumously.

Arrangement

The awards and honors are arranged in chronological order.

Certificate admitting Gregory H. Swanson as an attorney of the US Supreme Court

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248766

Unit Date 1959-10-19

Text [35007008629002] 4 (box)

Swanson Courage Award from the University of Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248767

Unit Date 2015-10-25

Artifacts [35007008628996] 3 (box)

Official Citation from the Maryland General Assembly

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248768

Unit Date 2022-05-04

Text [35007008629002] 4 (box)

Original folders

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/248909

Unit Date circa 1950 - 1960

Artifacts [35007008628996] 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file contains the original paper folders that Gregory Swanson used to store the items in this collection. The folders are titled, but do not contain any items.