

Gail Falk, Lawyer, Papers A&M 4567

Gail Falk, Lawyer, Papers
1926-1982 and undated



Title Statement

Gail Falk, Lawyer, Papers A&M 4567

Author: Staff of the West Virginia and Regional History Center

Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
Business Number: 304-293-3536
wvrhcref@westvirginia.libanswers.com
URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-18 14:03:53 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4567

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6956

Unit Date

1926-1982 and undated

Unit Date

1970-1982

Language

English .

Abstract

Gail Falk is a lawyer most known for her work as a lawyer with the United Mine Workers of America and for her contributions to the Equal Rights Amendment. This collection contains materials collected and created by Gail Falk during her time working as a lawyer in West Virginia. It includes materials from her work with abortion litigation, the founding of the Women's Health Center in Charleston, cases related to married women keeping their maiden name after marriage, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), women in mining and labor unions, and a court case related to sex discrimination.

source

Falk, Gail

Creator

Falk, Gail

Extent

1.33 Linear Feet 1 record carton, 15 in.; 1 flat storage box, 1 in.

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center/ West Virginia University/ 1549 University Avenue / P.O Box 6069/ Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3981 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Material in box 1, folder 12 contains a birth certificate from 1973 which is restricted for 100 years after the latest creation date. Material will become accessible in 2073.

Material in box 1, folder 13 contains a court case related to sex discrimination from 1980 which is restricted for 50 years after the latest creation date. Material will become accessible in 2030.

Conditions Governing Use

The donor of this collection has transferred rights to the intellectual property they created to the Center. For more information regarding permission to publish or reproduce, please contact the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Falk, Gail, 2023 July 02.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Gail Falk, Lawyer, Papers, A&M 4567, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Gail Falk is a lawyer most known for her work as a lawyer with the United Mine Workers of America and for her contributions to the Equal Rights Amendment.

She attended Harvard University at the time of the Kennedy assassination, which prompted her to volunteer as a Freedom School teacher in Meridian, Mississippi, in 1964. She remained in Mississippi as a journalist and civil rights activist until 1967. She was involved as a staff member for the Southern Courier office and took part in the end of the Meredith March. In Meridian, she covered civil rights stories across Mississippi and trained young Mississippians to report and write for the paper.

She was a graduate of Yale Law School (1971) and started a "Women and Law" organization at the Law School as well as a women's health group.

Falk, along with two law school colleagues, published an article in the Yale Law Journal entitled, "The Equal Rights Amendment: A Constitutional Basis for Equal Rights for Women," in April 1971, which would be used frequently in legal defenses of the amendment.

Falk also advocated as a lawyer for other issues such as the right for married women to keep their maiden name after marriage, disability rights, and abortion rights. She helped found the Women's Health Center in Charleston, the first abortion provider in West Virginia.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials collected and created by Gail Falk during her time working as a lawyer in West Virginia. It includes materials from her work with abortion litigation, the founding of the Women's Health Center in Charleston, cases related to married women keeping their maiden name after marriage, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), women in mining and labor unions, and a court case related to sex discrimination. It also includes materials from her participation in several organizations such as the founding of a Women's Consciousness Group, Women's Health Center, and the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.

Materials include correspondence, court records, legislative records, legal documents, newspaper clippings, newsletters, magazines, pamphlets, flyers, memos, handbooks, budgets, research materials, board meeting notes, and notes.

The collection is divided into five series. There is some overlap between the series, especially concerning Falk's work with women's and abortion rights.

Series 1. Abortion: This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk during her work with founding the Women's Health Center in Charleston from 1970-1976. Prominent topics include court cases related to abortion, second trimester abortions, and opening an abortion clinic in West Virginia. The types of materials included are correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, flyers, pamphlets, newsletters, budgets, court records, magazines, and notes. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Series 2. Name Change: This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to work she did for the right for women to keep their maiden name after marriage from 1973-1980, with some materials dating to 1926. The series includes papers related to the Yellow Pages for West Virginia Women. The types of materials included are legal documents, correspondence, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, newsletters, and court records. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Series 3. Law and Legal Matters: This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to her work as a lawyer from 1970-1980. Prominent topics include the Equal Rights Amendment, women and the law, and court cases. The types of materials included are correspondence, newspaper clippings, newsletters, notes, and court records. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Series 4. Labor: This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to her work as a lawyer from 1971-1982. Prominent topics include women in mining and labor unions. The types of materials included are memos, notes, handbooks, and research materials. Materials can be found in box 1.

Series 5. Women's Organizations: This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk during her work with founding the Women's Health Center in Charleston from 1972-1976. The types of materials included are correspondence, notes, pamphlets, legal documents, board meeting notes, budgets, and magazines. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Keywords

Equal rights amendments

Sex discrimination against women -- Law and legislation

Abortion -- Law and legislation -- United States

Women's health services -- United States

Women's rights

West Virginia Feminist Activist and Women's History Collection

Falk, Gail

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Abortion

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241212

Unit Date 1970-1976 and undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk during her work with founding the Women's Health Center in Charleston from 1970-1976. Prominent topics include court cases related to abortion, second trimester abortions, and opening an abortion clinic in West Virginia. The types of materials included are correspondence, legal documents, newspaper clippings, flyers, pamphlets, newsletters, budgets, court records, magazines, and notes. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Abortion - West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241213

Unit Date 1970-1975 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1a-1b (Folder)

Separated Materials

Oversized material moved to A&M 4567, Box 2, Folder 1

Abortion Litigation - West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241214

Unit Date 1972-1976 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2a-2b (Folder)

Abortion - West Virginia - Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241215

Unit Date 1970-1973 and undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Separated Materials

Removed from A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 1a-1b

Series 2. Women's Birth Names

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241216

Unit Date 1926-1980 and undated

Unit Date 1972-1980

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to work she did for the right for women to keep their maiden name after marriage from 1973-1980, with some materials dating to 1926. The series includes papers related to the Yellow Pages for West Virginia Women. The types of materials included are legal documents, correspondence, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, newsletters, and court records. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Name Change

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241217

Unit Date 1926-1980 and undated

Unit Date 1972-1980

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4a-4c (Folder)

Separated Materials

Restricted material moved to A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 12. Oversized material moved to A&M 4567, Box 2, Folder 3

Yellow Pages for West Virginia Women

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241218

Unit Date 1977 May-1977 November and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Name Change - Birth Certificate

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241219

Unit Date 1973 June 20

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Conditions Governing Access

Birth Certificate restricted until 2073

Separated Materials

Removed from A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 4a-4c

Name Change - Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241220

Unit Date 1973 July-1973 August

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Separated Materials

Removed from A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 4a-4c

Series 3. Law and Legal Matters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241221

Unit Date 1970-1980 and undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to her work as a lawyer from 1970-1980. Prominent topics include the Equal Rights Amendment, women and the law, and court cases. The types of materials included are correspondence, newspaper clippings, newsletters, notes, and court records. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241222

Unit Date 1970-1975 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5a-5b (Folder)

Separated Materials

Oversized material moved to A&M 4567, Box 2, Folder 4

Women and the Law

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241223

Unit Date 1972-1978 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Snyder v. West Virginia Department of Public Safety

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241224

Unit Date 1973-1980

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Conditions Governing Access

Court case documents restricted until 2030

ERA - Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241225

Unit Date 1974 February

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Separated Materials

Removed from A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 5a-5b

Series 4. Labor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241226

Unit Date 1971-1982 and undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk related to her work as a lawyer from 1971-1982. Prominent topics include women in mining and labor unions. The types of materials included are book excerpts, legislative bills, memos, notes, handbooks. Materials can be found in box 1.

Women and Labor Unions

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241227

Unit Date 1971-1978 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Women and Mining

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241228

Unit Date 1972-1982

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Series 5. Women's Organizations

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241229

Unit Date 1972-1976 and undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials produced and collected by Gail Falk during her work with founding the Women's Health Center in Charleston from 1972-1976. The types of materials included are correspondence, notes, pamphlets, legal documents, board meeting notes, budgets, magazines. Materials can be found in boxes 1 and 2.

Women's Health Center of West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241230

Unit Date 1972-1976 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3a-3c (Folder)

Separated Materials

Oversized material moved to A&M 4567, Box 2, Folder 2

Women's Consciousness Raising Group**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/241231**Unit Date** 1975 November**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 6 (Folder)**Women's Contact List****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/241232**Unit Date** 1973 March and undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 11 (Folder)**Women's Health Center of West Virginia****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/241233**Unit Date** 1976**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 2 (Folder)**Separated Materials**

Removed from A&M 4567, Box 1, Folder 3a-3c