

John J. Sirica

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge with the assistance of
Sherralyn McCoy**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Latest revision: 2008 July

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of John J. Sirica

Span Dates: 1932-1986

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1957-1986)

ID No.: MSS81883

Creator: Sirica, John J.

Extent: 38,000 items; 123 containers plus 1 classified; 49.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Jurist and lawyer. Correspondence, memoranda, drafts of articles and books, speeches, notes, research materials calendars, case files, bench books, financial and legal material, family papers, printed material, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Sirica's career as judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, especially to cases relating to the Watergate affair.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Ammidown, Robert Louis--Trials, litigation, etc.

Clark, Tom C. (Tom Campbell), 1899-1977.

Dempsey, Jack, 1895-1983.

Ervin, Sam J. (Sam James), 1896-1985.

Gimbel, Bernard F., 1885-1966.

Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972.

Jaworski, Leon.

Johnson, Frank Minis, 1918-

Kronheim, Milton S. (Milton Stanley), 1911-

Lear, Norman.

Lindsay, John V. (John Vliet)

McCord, James W. (James Walter)

Neal, James F., 1929-

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

Prettyman, E. Barrett (Elijah Barrett), 1891-1971.

Rogers, William P. (William Pierce), 1913-2001.

Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998.

Sirica, John J.

Wilson, John J. (John Johnston), 1901-

Organizations

United States. Congress. House. Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission.

United States. District Court (District of Columbia)

Subjects

Administrative law.

Antitrust law.

Civil rights.

Constitutional law.

District courts--Washington (D.C.)

Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)

Trials (Murder)

Watergate Affair, 1972-1974.

Related Names

Sirica, John J. To set the record straight : the break-in, the tapes, the conspirators, the pardon (1979)

Occupations

Jurists.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of John Joseph Sirica, lawyer and judge, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Lucile C. Sirica, in 1993.

Processing History:

A description of the Sirica Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1993*.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Sound and video recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, including several tapes of the court proceedings of the Watergate case, *United States v. Mitchell*. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the John J. Sirica Papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John J. Sirica in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is controlled by Lucile Sirica.

Security Classified Documents:

Government regulations control the use of classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish further information concerning access to and use of classified items.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John J. Sirica Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1904, 19 Mar.	Born, Waterbury, Conn.
1926	LL.B., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1926-1930	Private legal practice, Washington, D.C.
1930-1934	Assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.
1934-1944	Private legal practice, Washington, D.C.
1944	General counsel, Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission, United States House of Representatives

1949-1957	Member, law firm of Hogan and Hartson, Washington, D.C.
1952	Married Lucile M. Camalier
1957-1986	Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia; chief judge, 1971-1974; senior judge, 1977-1986
1973	Named <i>Time</i> magazine's man of the year Awarded American Judges Association's award of merit
1979	Published <i>To Set the Record Straight: The Break-in, the Tapes, the Conspirators, the Pardon</i> (New York: W. W. Norton. 394 pp.)
1992, 14 Aug.	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John J. Sirica (1904-1992) span the years 1932-1986 with the majority of the papers concentrated between 1957 and 1986. The bulk of the papers documents Sirica's career as judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, 1957-1986. The papers consist of four series: [Correspondence](#), [United States District Court File](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series, 1957-1986, includes incoming and outgoing correspondence relating mostly to Sirica's personal interests and activities, although some of the letters also pertain to his professional career. Also included are a few letters from Sirica to his son, John J. Sirica, Jr.

Documenting Sirica's thirty years of service as a federal trial judge, papers in the [United States District Court File](#), 1952-1986, comprise almost seventy-five percent of the collection. The District Court File consists of five subseries: [Personal Case Calendars](#), [Correspondence](#), [Case File](#), [Bench Books](#), and [Office File](#). The [Personal Case Calendars](#), 1967-1970, and [Correspondence](#), 1968-1985, document some of the administrative functions of the court and Sirica's professional duties. The case calendars occasionally have notations about personal appointments.

The [Case File](#) subseries, 1952-1986, includes correspondence and memoranda, chiefly between Sirica and other judges, lawyers, the court clerk, and staff, as well as extensive legal material such as opinions, orders, motions, briefs, and transcripts. Papers in this subseries consist mainly of photocopies rather than original items and are organized by category into Watergate cases and other cases. Making up the bulk of the case files, the Watergate files provide extensive documentation of the court proceedings relating to the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex (*United States v. Liddy*) and the cover-up of the burglary by high ranking government officials, including the president of the United States (*United States v. Mitchell*). In addition, there are related cases involving the subpoena of documents and tapes from President Richard M. Nixon and the transfer of grand jury reports to the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee (*In re Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum to Nixon* and *In re Report and Recommendation of June 5, 1972 Grand Jury Concerning Transmission of Evidence to the House of Representatives*).

The remaining case files indicate the variety of cases heard by Sirica on antitrust matters, constitutional law, civil rights, government regulations, and other issues. Many of these files are incomplete and often contain only one or two items, except for two antitrust cases (electrical equipment cases and *Riss & Co. v. Association of Am. R.R.*) and the murder trial of Robert Louis Ammidown (*United States v. Ammidown*).

The final two subseries of the [United States District Court File](#) consist of [Bench Books](#) and an [Office File](#). The [Bench Book](#) subseries, 1957-1983, contains Sirica's notes about the cases which came before his court. The [Office File](#) subseries, 1954-1986, relates to Sirica's administrative and professional duties. This subseries also documents some of the many awards and honors Sirica received throughout his career.

Papers in the [Speeches and Writings File](#), 1949-1986, pertain mainly to Sirica's book on Watergate, *To Set the Record Straight: the Break-in, the Tapes, the Conspirators, the Pardon*. Also worthy of mention is a file containing the beginning pages of an autobiography.

The final series, [Miscellany](#), 1932-1985, consists chiefly of material documenting Sirica's private legal practice and his service as general counsel, 1944, to the Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission. In addition, the Miscellany series contains correspondence, 1953-1982, documenting the judge's friendship with former heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey.

Among the more significant and frequent of Sirica's correspondents are Tom C. Clark, Jack Dempsey, Sam J. Ervin, Bernard F. Gimbel, J. Edgar Hoover, Leon Jaworski, Frank Minis Johnson, Milton S. Kronheim, Norman Lear, John V. Lindsay, James W. McCord, Jr., James F. Neal, Richard M. Nixon, E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr., William P. Rogers, Frank Sinatra, and John J. Wilson.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1957-1986, n.d.](#)
- [United States District Court File, 1952-1986, n.d.](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1949-1986, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1932-1985, n.d.](#)
- [Classified, 1973](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-12	<u>Correspondence, 1957-1986, n.d.</u> Correspondence and memoranda, including attachments and enclosures, between Sirica and family, friends, lawyers, judges, acquaintances, and the general public. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and therein chronologically by date.
BOX 12-105	<u>United States District Court File, 1952-1986, n.d.</u>
BOX 12	<u>Personal Case Calendars, 1967-1970</u> Calendars maintained by Sirica's staff documenting the day-to-day business of Sirica's court and his other administrative duties. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 13-15	<u>Correspondence, 1968-1985, n.d.</u> Correspondence and memoranda between Sirica and lawyers, judges, court staff, and the general public relating to his activities as a federal district judge. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 15-90	<u>Case File, 1952-1986, n.d.</u> Correspondence, memoranda, bench books, opinions, orders, briefs, motions, transcripts, dockets, stipulations, interrogatories, reports, notes, lists, printed matter, and other legal papers pertaining to Sirica's professional activities. A systematic sample was taken of the Watergate public correspondence; fifteen percent of that correspondence was retained. Arranged by category into Watergate cases and other cases. The former is arranged alphabetically by type of material, and the latter alphabetically by case title.
BOX 90-95	<u>Bench Books, 1957-1983</u> Bound volumes containing Sirica's notes about cases that came before his court. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 95-105	<u>Office File, 1954-1986, n.d.</u> Correspondence, memoranda, background information, invitations, jury instructions, notes, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, subject, or type of material.
BOX 106-117	<u>Speeches and Writings File, 1949-1986, n.d.</u> Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, research material, book drafts, book reviews, articles, notes, financial and legal papers, and printed matter relating chiefly to Sirica's post Watergate speeches and writings. Filed in two categories: speeches that are arranged chronologically and writings arranged alphabetically.
BOX 117-123	<u>Miscellany, 1932-1985, n.d.</u> Correspondence, memoranda, case files, family papers, financial and legal papers, background information, and printed matter relating primarily to Sirica's early career as a lawyer. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.

BOX CL 1

Classified, 1973

Government classified documents containing sensitive security information.

Correspondence, memoranda, and transcripts organized and described according to the series, boxes, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-12	Correspondence, 1957-1986, n.d. Correspondence and memoranda, including attachments and enclosures, between Sirica and family, friends, lawyers, judges, acquaintances, and the general public. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and therein chronologically by date.
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BOX 3	1958-1961 (12 folders)
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BOX 9	1981-1984 (9 folders)
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Correspondence, 1957-1986, n.d.

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BOX 12-105	United States District Court File, 1952-1986, n.d.
BOX 12	Personal Case Calendars, 1967-1970 Calendars maintained by Sirica's staff documenting the day-to-day business of Sirica's court and his other administrative duties. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 12	1967-1970 (2 folders)
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BOX 15-90	Case File, 1952-1986, n.d. Correspondence, memoranda, bench books, opinions, orders, briefs, motions, transcripts, dockets, stipulations, interrogatories, reports, notes, lists, printed matter, and other legal

United States District Court File, 1952-1986, n.d.

Container

Contents

papers pertaining to Sirica's professional activities. A systematic sample was taken of the Watergate public correspondence; fifteen percent of that correspondence was retained. Arranged by category into Watergate cases and other cases. The former is arranged alphabetically by type of material, and the latter alphabetically by case title.

BOX 15

Watergate cases *[For additional material see Container 110, To Set the Record Straight](#)*
Cases

In re Caddy, 1972

In re Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum to Nixon

Appellate court documents, 1973, n.d. *[For additional material see Container 19, Bench Book](#)*

(3 folders)

General

1971

1973

Mar.-July

BOX 16

Aug.-Dec.

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1974, n.d.

(3 folders)

In re Report & Recommendation of June 5, 1972, Grand Jury Concerning Transmission of Evidence to the House of Representatives

Appellate court documents, 1974

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General, 1974

(2 folders)

In re United States Senate Select Comm. on Presidential Campaign Activities

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Aug.

(2 folders)

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(2 folders)

1974

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BOX 22	1974-1975, n.d. (3 folders) Grand jury indictment, 1972 Hunt, E. Howard, motion to withdraw plea of guilt and to dismiss proceedings, 1973 Jury Instructions, 1973 Selection, 1972-1973, n.d. McCord, James W., Jr. Miscellaneous motions, 1973, n.d. New trial material, 1973-1975, n.d. Press, 1974, n.d. Pretrial documents, 1972 Sentences Barker, Bernard L., Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank Sturgis, and Virgilio Gonzalez, motion to reduce, 1973-1975 Bureau of Prisons' reports, 1973 Hunt, E. Howard, Jr., 1975, n.d. Liddy, G. Gordon General, 1976-1977, n.d. Motion to reduce sentence, 1975-1977, n.d. (2 folders) McCord, James W., Jr., motion to reduce sentence, 1973-1975, n.d. Presentencing file, 1973-1974 (2 folders) Transcript, 1973 Working papers, 1973, n.d.
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	Carr v. District of Columbia, 1970
	Cheung v. Attorney Gen. of the United States, 1975
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BOX 80	Rates, 1960 Exhibits General, 1960, n.d. Objections to plaintiff's, 1960, n.d. (2 folders) Form of verdict, 1960, n.d. General 1955-1962 (5 folders)
BOX 81	Undated (2 folders) Indexes of Transcripts, depositions, and pleadings, n.d. Trial record, n.d. Interrogatories 1955-1958

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Bench Books, 1957-1983

For additional material see Containers 19, 26, and 56, same heading

Bound volumes containing Sirica's notes about cases that came before his court.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 90

1957-1958
(2 folders)

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BOX 92	1960-1965 (4 folders)
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United States District Court File, 1952-1986, n.d.

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BOX 106-117

Speeches and Writings File, 1949-1986, n.d.

Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, research material, book drafts, book reviews, articles, notes, financial and legal papers, and printed matter relating chiefly to Sirica's post Watergate speeches and writings.

Filed in two categories: speeches that are arranged chronologically and writings arranged alphabetically.

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Speeches

By Sirica

1958-1974

(6 folders)

1975

Apr.-Aug.

(4 folders)

BOX 107

Sept.-Nov.

(4 folders)

1976-1977

(7 folders)

BOX 108

1978-1981, n.d.

(5 folders)

By others, 1973-1981, n.d.

Correspondence

1975

Jan.-July

(2 folders)

BOX 109

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(4 folders)

BOX 110

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Washington Speakers Bureau, Alexandria, Va., 1982-1983

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By Sirica

"After the Dam Broke," *New York Times*, 24 Apr. 1979

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To Set the Record Straight: The Break-in, the Tapes, the Conspirators, the Pardon (1979)

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(11 folders)

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Miscellany, 1932-1985, n.d.

Container

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BOX CL 1

United States District Court File

Case File

Watergate cases

Cases

United States v. Liddy

Presentencing file, 1973

Miscellaneous

United States Senate

Committee on Appropriations, Central Intelligence Agency hearings, 1973

Committee on Armed Services, Central Intelligence Agency hearings, 1973