Guide to the John Arthur Wilkinson Papers

MS 1661

compiled by Sarah Elisabeth Zurier

April 1995

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .................................................................................................................. 3  
Requesting Instructions ............................................................................................................ 3  
Administrative Information ....................................................................................................... 4  
  Immediate Source of Acquisition ............................................................................................ 4  
  Conditions Governing Access ................................................................................................. 4  
  Conditions Governing Use ..................................................................................................... 4  
  Preferred Citation ................................................................................................................... 4  
Biographical / Historical .......................................................................................................... 4  
Scope and Contents .................................................................................................................. 5  
Arrangement .............................................................................................................................. 6  
Collection Contents ................................................................................................................... 7  
  Series I. ADMINISTRATIVE FILES .................................................................................. 7  
  Series II. TOPICAL FILES ................................................................................................. 10  
  Series III. PHOTOGRAPHS ............................................................................................... 14  
Selected Search Terms ............................................................................................................. 15
Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1661

CREATOR: Wilkinson, John Arthur, 1938-

TITLE: John Arthur Wilkinson papers

DATES: 1973–1983

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.5 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The John Arthur Wilkinson Papers document the administrative and institutional history of the Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning (CARP), and offer a detailed view of the workings of a non-profit civil rights legal agency. CARP's work in the New Haven area with dozens of minority economic interests and neighborhood organizations is reflected in extensive correspondence, legal memoranda, proposals, and collected material. Much of the CARP material also addresses the general topic of African-Americans in the professions, particularly in law and business. There is substantive documentation on housing (discrimination, fair housing, neighborhood advocacy) and educational issues (especially concerning community and technical colleges).

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To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1661.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
John Arthur Wilkinson Papers (MS 1661). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

JOHN WILKINSON AND THE CENTER FOR ADVOCACY, RESEARCH AND PLANNING

John Arthur Wilkinson was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on April 30, 1938, and received his B.A., M.A.T., and M.A. degrees from Yale University. Wilkinson was Assistant Dean of Yale College from 1961 to 1968, and was Associate Dean from 1968 to 1974. He served as headmaster of Hopkins School from 1974 to 1979. Wilkinson returned to Yale in 1979, serving as an Officer for Development until 1981, and as Secretary of the university from 1981 to 1987. From 1978 to 1983, Wilkinson served on the board of directors of the Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning (CARP), an organization founded in December 1973 as the legal arm and research agency of the Greater New Haven Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). CARP sought to represent the needs of minorities and the poor through traditional legal process. Separated from the NAACP for tax reasons in 1974, CARP continued to promote the concerns of disadvantaged people until it was disbanded in 1983.

CARP focused its activities on civil rights issues and did significant work in matters of affirmative action, fair housing, and community economic development. Under its first executive director, Fleming Norcott, CARP’s docket included efforts on behalf of local African-American policemen in their bid for equal employment opportunities; litigative work to promote a New Haven location of South Central Community College (now Gateway Community-Technical College) and a regional technical vocational college; and representation of the Church Street South community whose housing was threatened by a proposed highway. During Norcott’s six-year tenure, the non-profit CARP forged crucial relationships with and secured much of its funding from charitable organizations and corporate sponsors. CARP’s board of directors assembled a diverse group of professionals from the New Haven and Yale communities.

In 1979, former Associate Director Clarance Jones assumed leadership, and in the 1980s, CARP produced several affirmative action plans, prepared studies on patients’ rights and jury reform, and continued its investigation of the New Haven educational system. CARP also supported and worked with several minority businesses and economic development organizations in order to encourage economic
opportunities in New Haven’s minority community. Throughout its ten years, CARP maintained a strong
presence in the community and in the local media. Lack of support funding, however, required the board of
directors and Executive Director Joseph Searles to close the Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning in
1983.

Tenure of CARP Executive Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973-1979</td>
<td>Fleming Norcott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1982</td>
<td>Clarance Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Joseph Searles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Contents

The John Arthur Wilkinson Papers, donated by Wilkinson in 1994, consist of records which document the
administrative and institutional history of the Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning and which
offer a detailed view of the workings of a non-profit civil rights legal agency. The collection should prove
useful for researchers interested in the history of civil rights and in the socio-economic affairs of minorities
in New Haven. CARP’s work with dozens of minority interest groups and neighborhood organizations is
reflected in extensive correspondence, legal memoranda, proposals, and collected materials. Much of the
CARP material also addresses the general topic of African-Americans in the professions, particularly in law
and business. There is substantive documentation on housing (discrimination, fair housing, neighborhood
advocacy) and educational issues (especially concerning community and technical colleges).

The papers range in date from 1973-1983. They are divided into three series: I. Administrative Files, II.
Topical Files, and III. Photographs.

Both Series I and II are arranged alphabetically according to CARP’s original office filing system.

Series I, ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, consists of documents pertaining to the administration of the
organization. Files on the “Board of Directors,” “Executive Director,” “Funding Sources,” and “Reports”
comprise the majority of the series.

For those interested in the organizational history of CARP, the collected minutes and correspondence
of the board of directors, contained within the “Meetings” files, offer an inside perspective, and span
from 1973 to 1982. There is substantive information on CARP’s working concerns: casework, funding,
solicitation, personnel, organizational health, and budget. The minutes also offer important insight into
CARP’s founding and eventual demise.

Other documentation of CARP’s case load and organizational life can be found in the “Reports” files and
in the proposals to the New Haven Foundation and United Way, under “Funding Sources.” The reports
present in all of these files provide regular summaries of personnel and budgetary matters, pending cases,
new clients, various events arranged or attended by CARP, and a (typically quarterly) financial statement. Other folders in “Funding Sources” include materials that document the extent of CARP’s quest for outside monies. In particular, the correspondence with the Aetna Insurance Company and Southern New England Telephone reveals the complexity of the relationship between CARP and its corporate sponsors.

Fleming Norcott’s final report as executive director provides a concise summary of CARP’s activity through
1979. Other “Executive Director” files include some of the correspondence that flowed in and out of the
CARP office from 1980 to 1982. It should be noted that the majority of CARP’s correspondence (from 1973
to 1983), is scattered throughout the collection; correspondence with particular organizations/projects
is often located in the organization/project file; and other correspondence is found in the “Meetings” files
of the board of directors. “History” and “Publicity” files contain items which explain how CARP presented
itself to the public and how CARP was regarded by the local media. Most of the cases and topics described
in Series I can be explored in further detail in Series II.
Series II, TOPICAL FILES, documents CARP’s working concerns, ranging from general issues like affirmative action to specific cases like the bid by the Silver Shields (an African American police organization) for fair treatment by the New Haven Police Department. In addition, there is considerable documentation on CARP’s ongoing relationship with dozens of community groups, city and state commissions, and national membership organizations. CARP’s standing as a significant player in the New Haven minority community is best represented in the substantial number of files on “Black Organizations,” “Community Action Groups and Community Matters,” and ”New Haven Economics and Development.” Among the materials on neighborhood organizations are extensive files on the Hill Central Community, the Newhallville Neighborhood Corporation, and the Dixwell/Newhallville Neighborhood Revitalization Program. There is material on several of CARP’s major projects, including a proposed business/technical academy for the area (under “Education”) and the organization of a minority economic development conference (under ”New Haven Economics and Development”). For those interested in the concerns of African-American professionals, there are folders on the National Bar Association (a minority lawyers’ organization), under “Bar associations and legal societies”; several files on individual professional organizations under “Black Organizations”; and folders on the Economic Development Conference, under “New Haven Economics and Development.”

Evidence of CARP’s presence in city and state politics can be found throughout Series II, particularly in such files as: “Commissions and Committees,” “Community action groups and community matters,” ”Education,” “Housing,” and “New Haven Economics and Development.” Under Clarance Jones in the early 1980s, CARP became increasingly involved in media concerns. CARP’s participation on the WTNH-TV Minority Advisory Committee and its high profile response to a 1980 cross burning are documented in the ”Media” files.

Series III, PHOTOGRAPHS, is comprised of one folder of 8x10 black and white photographic prints. They are undated and unidentified, but appear to be prints of CARP staff members and New Haven neighborhoods.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series: I. Administrative Files. II. Topical Files. III. Photographs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>1974, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>1974–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3-4</td>
<td>Fund raising committee</td>
<td>1976, 1980–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Nominating committee</td>
<td>1980–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Personnel committee</td>
<td>1981–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: <a href="#">box 8, folder 190-195</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Program development committee</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Public relations committee</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Human rights award</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget/financial</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 106</td>
<td>By-laws</td>
<td>1975–1978, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 107</td>
<td>CARP (Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning) vs. CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles of Connecticut, Inc.)</td>
<td>1977–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 109</td>
<td>Norcott, Fleming: Final report</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jones, Clarance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 110-127</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1980–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 128-137</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1981–1982</td>
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### Executive Director (continued)

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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 138-139</td>
<td>Interim: correspondence</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
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<td>Searles, Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 140-146</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 147</td>
<td>Speeches and statements</td>
<td>1982, undated</td>
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### Funding Sources

#### Corporations

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<tr>
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<td>See also: box 13, folder 304-306</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 152</td>
<td>Carnegie Corporation</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 153</td>
<td>Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Group</td>
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#### Foundations

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 156</td>
<td>Field Foundation</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 157</td>
<td>Hazen Foundation</td>
<td>1974–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 158-174</td>
<td>New Haven Foundation</td>
<td>1973–1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 175</td>
<td>Housing and Urban Development grant</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 176</td>
<td>Letters of support</td>
<td>1980–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 177</td>
<td>Reasons for funding</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 185</td>
<td>History [includes histories and brochure]</td>
<td>1974–1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 186</td>
<td>Interoffice memoranda</td>
<td>1982–1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 187</td>
<td>Litigation models</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 188</td>
<td>Location [office]</td>
<td>1975–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 189</td>
<td>Mailing lists</td>
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#### Personnel

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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 190</td>
<td>In-school work experience program</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 191</td>
<td>Job descriptions</td>
<td>1976–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 192</td>
<td>Policies</td>
<td>1974–1980</td>
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### Personnel (continued)

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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 193</td>
<td>Student employment applications</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 194</td>
<td>Volunteer action center</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 195</td>
<td>Yale and Bridgeport workstudy</td>
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### Publicity

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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 196-197</td>
<td>Newspaper articles</td>
<td>1974–1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 199</td>
<td>Press releases</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 198</td>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 200</td>
<td>Registration and incorporation</td>
<td>1974–1981</td>
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### Reports

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 201-208</td>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 209-233</td>
<td>1976-1982</td>
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### Tax exemption

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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 234</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>1974–1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 235</td>
<td>State</td>
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## Series II. TOPICAL FILES

### Affirmative Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 236</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>1975–1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 237</td>
<td>Anti-redlining plan</td>
<td>1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: [Box 15, folders 321-322]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 238</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
<td>1979–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 239</td>
<td>Construction contracts</td>
<td>1974–1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 240</td>
<td>Fair housing marketing</td>
<td>1975</td>
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<td>See also: [Box 14, folder 316]</td>
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### Bar associations and legal societies

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<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 243</td>
<td>National Bar Association</td>
<td>1978–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 244</td>
<td>National Lawyers Guild</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 245</td>
<td>New Haven City Bar Association</td>
<td>1975–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 246</td>
<td>Others</td>
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### Black Organizations

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 247</td>
<td>Afro-American Cultural Center</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 248</td>
<td>Afro-American Historical Society</td>
<td>1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 249</td>
<td>Black Coalition of New Haven, Inc.</td>
<td>1977–1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 250</td>
<td>Black judges in Connecticut</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 253</td>
<td>Greater Hartford Black Law Society</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 254</td>
<td>Block grants</td>
<td>1981</td>
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### Commissions and Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 255</td>
<td>Charter Revision Committee [City of New Haven]</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 256</td>
<td>Civil Rights Coordinating Committee</td>
<td>1979–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 257-259</td>
<td>Connecticut Civil Liberties Union</td>
<td>1978–1980, undated</td>
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### Commissions and Committees (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 266</td>
<td>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission</td>
<td>1978–1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 267</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 274</td>
<td>U.S. Commission on Human Rights</td>
<td>1979–1980</td>
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### Community Action Groups and Community Matters

See also: box 14, folder 314-323 box 16, folder 333-342

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 275</td>
<td>Anti-Hunger Coalition</td>
<td>1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 276</td>
<td>Citizens for Humanizing Criminal Justice</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 277</td>
<td>Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (CETA)</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 278</td>
<td>Church Street South</td>
<td>1981–1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 279</td>
<td>Coalition for an Equitable Region</td>
<td>1979–1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 280</td>
<td>Connecticut Association for Human Services</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 281</td>
<td>Connecticut Black Caucus</td>
<td>1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 282</td>
<td>Co-op Housing Technical Advisory Group</td>
<td>1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 283</td>
<td>Hill Central Community, Inc.</td>
<td>1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 284</td>
<td>International Association of Human Rights Agencies</td>
<td>1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 285</td>
<td>Lighthouse Park</td>
<td>1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 286</td>
<td>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New Haven</td>
<td>1979–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 287</td>
<td>Narcotics Addiction Research and Community Opportunities, Inc. (NARCO)</td>
<td>1977–1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 288</td>
<td>Neighborhood Assistance Project</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 293</td>
<td>New Haven Youth Association</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See also: box 16, folder 336</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 295</td>
<td>People Acting for Change</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 296</td>
<td>Rt. 34 Air Rights Garage</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 297</td>
<td>Save Our Schools</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 12 of 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Action Groups and Community Matters (continued)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 298</td>
<td>Silver Shields</td>
<td>1981, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 299</td>
<td>Town-gown relations</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 300</td>
<td>Urban League</td>
<td>1978–1979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discrimination**

| b. 13, f. 302 | Banking | undated |
| b. 13, f. 303 | Equal Employment Opportunities Commission | 1981 |

**Education**

See also: [box 10, folder 238](#)

| See also: [box 5, folders 150-151](#) |
| b. 14, f. 309 | Regional Council on Education for Employment | 1982 |
| b. 14, f. 313 | Technical college proposal | 1975 |

**Housing**

See also: [box 12, folder 275-300](#)

<p>| b. 14, f. 314 | Census ’80 True Count Committee | 1980 |
| b. 14, f. 315 | Clippings | 1979–1982 |
| See also: <a href="#">box 10, folder 240</a> |
| b. 14, f. 318 | New Haven Housing Coalition | 1980–1982 |
| b. 14, f. 319 | Public housing siting | 1981 |
| b. 15, f. 320 | Public housing suit | 1980–1981 |
| See also: <a href="#">box 10, folder 237</a> |
| b. 15, f. 323 | Tenant representation | 1972–1978 |
| See also: <a href="#">box 16, folder 331</a> |
| b. 15, f. 326 | Labor: Connecticut Labor Department | 1979 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 327-328</td>
<td>Legal memoranda and student legal memoranda</td>
<td>1980–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 331</td>
<td>Television response to 1980 cross burning</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: box 15, folders 324-325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 332</td>
<td>WTNH Minority Advisory Committee</td>
<td>1981–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Haven Economics and Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: box 10, folders 247-253</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 333</td>
<td>Chase and Rouse Company</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 334</td>
<td>Community development</td>
<td>1978, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 335</td>
<td>Community Development Act</td>
<td>1973–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 336</td>
<td>Dixwell/Newhallville Neighborhood Revitalization Program</td>
<td>1979, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: box 13, folder 294</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 337</td>
<td>Economic development conference</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 339</td>
<td>Halcyon report and summary</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 340</td>
<td>Heritage Hall Development Corporation</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 341</td>
<td>Hilgenhurst report excerpts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 342</td>
<td>Minority Small Business Investment Company (MESBIC) Advisory Board</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 343-344</td>
<td>Reapportionment</td>
<td>1980–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 345</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series III. PHOTOGRAPHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 16, f. 346</th>
<th>Photographs</th>
<th>undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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.

Subjects
Affirmative action programs -- Connecticut
Affirmative action programs -- United States
African American lawyers
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Connecticut
African Americans -- Employment
African Americans -- Housing
Civil rights
Community development
Community organization
Discrimination in employment
Housing
Minorities -- Housing
Minorities -- Political activity
Minority lawyers
Race discrimination -- Law and legislation
Technical education
Urban policy

Geographic Names
Connecticut -- Social conditions
New Haven (Conn.) -- Civil rights
New Haven (Conn.) -- Social conditions

Names
Jones, Clarance
Norcott, Fleming
Searles, Joseph
Wilkinson, John Arthur, 1938-

Corporate Bodies
Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning
(New Haven, Conn.)
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. New Haven Branch