

Guide to the John Arthur Wilkinson Papers Documenting the Center for Advocacy, Research, and Planning

MS 1661



compiled by Sarah Elisabeth Zurier

April 1995

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1661

CREATOR: Wilkinson, John Arthur, 1938-

TITLE: John Arthur Wilkinson papers documenting the Center for Advocacy,
Research, and Planning

DATES: 1973-1983

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.5 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The John Arthur Wilkinson Papers Documenting the Center for Advocacy, Research, and Planning (CARP) document the administrative and institutional history of 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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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John A. Wilkinson, 1994.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

John Arthur Wilkinson Papers Documenting the Center for Advocacy, Research, and Planning (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 Clarence 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

YEARS	o EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1973-1979	o Fleming Norcott
1979-1982	o Clarence Jones
1982-1983	o Joseph Searles

Scope and Contents

The John Arthur Wilkinson Papers Documenting the Center for Advocacy, Research, and Planning, 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 Clarence 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.

Collection Contents

Series I: ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

b. 1, f. 1	Background	1974, undated
	A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
	Board of Directors	
b. 1, f. 2	General	1974-1979
	Committees	
b. 1, f. 3-4	Fund raising committee	1976, 1980-1982
b. 1, f. 5	Nominating committee	1980-1982
b. 1, f. 6	Personnel committee See also: box 8, folder 190-195	1981-1982
b. 1, f. 7	Program development committee	1981
b. 1, f. 8	Public relations committee	1981
b. 1, f. 9	Human rights award	1981
	Meetings	
b. 1, f. 10-37	1973-1975	1973-1975
b. 2, f. 38-67	1976-1978	1976-1978
b. 3, f. 68-89	1979-1981	1979-1981
b. 4, f. 90-98	1982-1983	1982-1983
	Budget/financial	
b. 4, f. 99-102	Audits	1978-1981
b. 4, f. 103-105	Financial information	1975, 1977-1978, 1980-1981
b. 4, f. 106	By-laws	1975-1978, undated
b. 4, f. 107	CARP (Center for Advocacy, Research and Planning) vs. CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles of Connecticut, Inc.)	1977-1981
b. 4, f. 108	Client intake sheets	1980-1981
	Executive Director	
b. 4, f. 109	Norcott, Fleming: Final report	1979
	Jones, Clarence	

Executive Director > Jones, Clarence (continued)

b. 4, f. 110-127	Correspondence	1980-1981
b. 5, f. 128-137	Correspondence	1981-1982
b. 5, f. 138-139	Interim: correspondence	1982
	Searles, Joseph	
b. 5, f. 140-146	Correspondence	1982
b. 5, f. 147	Speeches and statements	1982, undated
	Funding Sources	
	Corporations	
b. 5, f. 148-149	General	1974-1981
b. 5, f. 150-151	Aetna Insurance Company See also: box 13, folder 304-306	1976-1982
b. 5, f. 152	Carnegie Corporation	1982
b. 5, f. 153	Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Group	1981
b. 5, f. 154-155	Southern New England Telephone	1980-1981
	Foundations	
b. 6, f. 156	Field Foundation	1981
b. 6, f. 157	Hazen Foundation	1974-1982
b. 6, f. 158-174	New Haven Foundation	1973-1983
b. 6, f. 175	Housing and Urban Development grant	1979
b. 6, f. 176	Letters of support	1980-1981
b. 7, f. 177	Reasons for funding	undated
b. 7, f. 178-184	United Way	1977-1982 undated
b. 7, f. 185	History [includes histories and brochure] A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1974-1980
b. 7, f. 186	Interoffice memoranda	1982-1983
b. 7, f. 187	Litigation models	1977
b. 7, f. 188	Location [office]	1975-1982
b. 7, f. 189	Mailing lists	undated

Personnel

See also: [box 1, folder 6](#)

b. 8, f. 190	In-school work experience program	1982
b. 8, f. 191	Job descriptions	1976-1981
b. 8, f. 192	Policies	1974-1980
b. 8, f. 193	Student employment applications	1981
b. 8, f. 194	Volunteer action center	1982
b. 8, f. 195	Yale and Bridgeport workstudy	1981-1982
Publicity		
b. 8, f. 196-197	Newspaper articles	1974-1980
b. 8, f. 199	Press releases	1980
b. 8, f. 198	Public relations	1980
b. 8, f. 200	Registration and incorporation	1974-1981
Reports		
b. 8, f. 201-208	1974-1975	1974-1975
b. 9, f. 209-233	1976-1982	1976-1982
Tax exemption		
b. 9, f. 234	Federal	1974-1975
b. 9, f. 235	State	1974-1982

Series II: TOPICAL FILES

Affirmative Action		
b. 10, f. 236	General	1975-1980
b. 10, f. 237	Anti-redlining plan See also: box 15, folders 321-322	1975
b. 10, f. 238	Board of Education	1979-1981
b. 10, f. 239	Construction contracts	1974-1978
b. 10, f. 240	Fair housing marketing See also: Box 14, folder 316	1975
Bar associations and legal societies		
b. 10, f. 241	Connecticut Bar Association	1974-1979
b. 10, f. 242	Connecticut Bar Examination Committee	1974-1981
b. 10, f. 243	National Bar Association	1978-1979
b. 10, f. 244	National Lawyers Guild	1979
b. 10, f. 245	New Haven City Bar Association	1975-1979
b. 10, f. 246	Others	1979, undated
Black Organizations See also: box 12, folder 275-300		
b. 10, f. 247	Afro-American Cultural Center	undated
b. 10, f. 248	Afro-American Historical Society	1981
b. 10, f. 249	Black Coalition of New Haven, Inc.	1977-1978
b. 10, f. 250	Black judges in Connecticut	1979
b. 10, f. 251	Black lawyers in Connecticut	1973-1980
b. 10, f. 252	Black Management Association of Southern New England Telephone	1978-1980
b. 10, f. 253	Greater Hartford Black Law Society	1978
b. 10, f. 254	Block grants	1981
Commissions and Committees		
b. 10, f. 255	Charter Revision Committee [City of New Haven]	1981
b. 10, f. 256	Civil Rights Coordinating Committee	1979-1982
b. 11, f. 257-259	Connecticut Civil Liberties Union	1978-1980, undated
b. 11, f. 260-265	Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities	1977-1981

Commissions and Committees (continued)

b. 11, f. 266	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	1978-1979
b. 11, f. 267	Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee	1981
b. 12, f. 268-273	Purchasing Advisory Committee [City of New Haven]	1979-1982, undated
b. 12, f. 274	U.S. Commission on Human Rights	1979-1980
	Community Action Groups and Community Matters See also: box 14, folder 314-323 box 16, folder 333-342	
b. 12, f. 275	Anti-Hunger Coalition	1980
b. 12, f. 276	Citizens for Humanizing Criminal Justice	1979
b. 12, f. 277	Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (CETA)	1978
b. 12, f. 278	Church Street South	1981-1982
b. 12, f. 279	Coalition for an Equitable Region	1979-1980
b. 12, f. 280	Connecticut Association for Human Services	1978
b. 12, f. 281	Connecticut Black Caucus	1981
b. 12, f. 282	Co-op Housing Technical Advisory Group	1982
b. 12, f. 283	Hill Central Community, Inc.	1981
b. 12, f. 284	International Association of Human Rights Agencies	1981
b. 12, f. 285	Lighthouse Park	1981
b. 12, f. 286	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New Haven	1979-1981
b. 13, f. 287	Narcotics Addiction Research and Community Opportunities, Inc. (NARCO)	1977-1979
b. 13, f. 288	Neighborhood Assistance Project	1982
b. 13, f. 289	New Haven Coalition for People	1982-1983
b. 13, f. 290	New Haven Housing Coalition	1980-1981
b. 13, f. 291	New Haven Legal Association, Inc.	1977-1978
b. 13, f. 292	New Haven Volunteers	1978-1979
b. 13, f. 293	New Haven Youth Association	1980
b. 13, f. 294	Newhallville Neighborhood Corporation See also: box 16, folder 336	1982-1983
b. 13, f. 295	People Acting for Change	1978
b. 13, f. 296	Rt. 34 Air Rights Garage	1982
b. 13, f. 297	Save Our Schools	1981

Community Action Groups and Community Matters (continued)

b. 13, f. 298	Silver Shields	1981, undated
b. 13, f. 299	Town-gown relations	1981
b. 13, f. 300	Urban League	1978-1979
b. 13, f. 301	Conferences	1978-1981
	Discrimination	
b. 13, f. 302	Banking	undated
b. 13, f. 303	Equal Employment Opportunities Commission	1981
	Education	
	See also: box 10, folder 238	
b. 13, f. 304-306	Business Industrial Skills Agency See also: box 5, folders 150-151	1980-1982
b. 14, f. 307-308	Mayor's Education Management Task Force	1981
b. 14, f. 309	Regional Council on Education for Employment	1982
b. 14, f. 310-312	South Central Community College [now Gateway Community-Technical College]	1972-1976, 1979-1982, undated
b. 14, f. 313	Technical college proposal	1975
	Housing	
	See also: box 12, folder 275-300	
b. 14, f. 314	Census '80 True Count Committee	1980
b. 14, f. 315	Clippings	1979-1982
b. 14, f. 316	Fair housing, New Haven A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy. See also: box 10, folder 240	1977-1982
b. 14, f. 317	Morris Cove	1975-1978
b. 14, f. 318	New Haven Housing Coalition A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1980-1982
b. 14, f. 319	Public housing siting	1981
b. 15, f. 320	Public housing suit A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1980-1981

Housing (continued)

b. 15, f. 321-322	Redlining [mortgage and insurance] See also: box 10, folder 237	1980-1981
b. 15, f. 323	Tenant representation	1972-1978
b. 15, f. 324-325	Ku Klux Klan See also: box 16, folder 331	1980-1981, undated
b. 15, f. 326	Labor: Connecticut Labor Department	1979
b. 15, f. 327-328	Legal memoranda and student legal memoranda	1980-1981
Media		
b. 15, f. 329	Federal Communications Commission license challenges	1976-1978, undated
b. 16, f. 330	Racial bias in newspapers	1981-1982
b. 16, f. 331	Television response to 1980 cross burning See also: box 15, folders 324-325	1980
b. 16, f. 332	WTNH Minority Advisory Committee	1981-1982
New Haven Economics and Development See also: box 10, folders 247-253		
b. 16, f. 333	Chase and Rouse Company	1981
b. 16, f. 334	Community development	1978, undated
b. 16, f. 335	Community Development Act	1973-1981
b. 16, f. 336	Dixwell/Newhallville Neighborhood Revitalization Program See also: box 13, folder 294	1979, 1981
b. 16, f. 337	Economic development conference	1979
b. 16, f. 338	Greater New Haven Business and Professional Association	1981-1982
b. 16, f. 339	Halcyon report and summary	undated
b. 16, f. 340	Heritage Hall Development Corporation	1981
b. 16, f. 341	Hilgenhurst report excerpts	undated
b. 16, f. 342	Minority Small Business Investment Company (MESBIC) Advisory Board	1981
b. 16, f. 343-344	Reapportionment	1980-1982
b. 16, f. 345	Transportation	1979

Series III: PHOTOGRAPHS

b. 16, f. 346

Photographs

undated

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, Clarence
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