

Guide to the Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. Personal Papers

MS 1563



by Elise Riley and Mary Caldera

August 2025

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1563

CREATOR: Schmidt, Benno C., 1942-

TITLE: Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. personal papers

DATES: 1958–2009

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 25.67 linear feet (55 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection contains personal subject files kept by Benno Schmidt Jr.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1563>

Requesting Instructions

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1563>.

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

Gift of Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., 2011.

Materials in the Additional subject files series were transferred from the President's Office in 1996 and Office of the Secretary in 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

Box 52 (born digital): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. Personal Papers (MS 1563). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Archival Description Unit Processing Manual.

The Benno Schmidt Jr. personal papers formerly consisted of subject files transferred from the President's Office in 1996 and Office of the Secretary in 2006 (2007-m-036) now found in the "Additional subject files" series.

BENNO SCHMIDT JR. (1942-2023)

Benno Charles Schmidt Jr. (1942-2023) '63, '66 J.D. was an education executive and constitutional law scholar. After graduating from Yale Law School, he clerked for Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren, became a tenured professor at Columbia Law School, and was appointed dean of the school in 1984. He served as Yale's 20th president from 1986 to 1992. During his time as president, he focused on physical maintenance of campus facilities, shrinking Yale's deficits, and growing the University's endowment. After stepping down as president, he transitioned to for-profit management for public schools. From 1992 to 1997, Schmidt was the CEO for Edison Schools, later renamed EdisonLearning. He also served as chairman on the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2013.

Scope and Contents

The Benno Schmidt Jr. personal papers consist of correspondence, writings, personal papers, photographs, and other documentation related to Benno Schmidt Jr.'s career and personal life.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series: I. Edison Schools files, 1991-2008. II. City University of New York (CUNY) files, 1995-2008. III. Office files, 1958-2009. IV. Photographs, 1996-2000. V. Computer media, 2008. VI. Additional subject files, 1986-1992.

Collection Contents

Series I: Edison Schools files, 1991–2008

This series contains research, clippings, correspondence, and reports related to the administration of Edison Schools Inc.

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This series contains correspondence, reports, research, and writing related to Benno Schmidt's role as chairman of CUNY Board of Trustees.

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This series maintains order found at acquisition.

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b. 40, f. 2	First National Bank of Santa Fe	2001

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b. 40, f. 5	Columbia University	1999-2001
b. 40, f. 6	Committee reports: The Law of Presidential Impeachment	undated
b. 40, f. 7	Gray's Inn	2002
b. 40, f. 8	Hale and Dorr	1999-2000
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b. 40, f. 10	Itineraries: Chicago - March 30, 2000	2000
b. 40, f. 11-14	J.W. Childs	1998-2002
b. 41, f. 1	Lamar Alexander	1997-1999
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b. 41, f. 3	Travel	1998
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b. 41, f. 8-9b. 42, f. 1	Ross University	2000-2002
b. 42, f. 2	Rudolph Giuliani	1998
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b. 42, f. 4	Schools: Phillips Exeter Academy	1999
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b. 42, f. 6	Shepardson Stern Kaminsky	undated
b. 42, f. 7	Recommendations	2005
b. 42, f. 8-9	Rib-X	2001-2003
b. 42, f. 10	Council for Aid to Education	1997
b. 43, f. 1	5040 Arlington	2003
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b. 43, f. 3-6	Condominium Sale	1994-2001
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b. 44, f. 1-2	Helen Whitney	1997–2001
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b. 44, f. 4	Supreme Court: Butts, Leonard	undated
b. 44, f. 5	Supreme Court: Benno	undated
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b. 44, f. 7	Supreme Court: White Court	undated
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b. 45, f. 9	Art and Antiques	1995–2003
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b. 46, f. 2	Merrill Lynch: Insurance	2000–2004
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b. 46, f. 4	222 Riverside Drive	1995–1998
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b. 46, f. 7	The Foundation Center directory	2003
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b. 47, f. 2	Band Song List	1973
b. 47, f. 3	Dad's Estate	1998–2000
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b. 47, f. 6	Dad's Estate	1980–2004
b. 47, f. 7	IBM	2001
b. 47, f. 8	Personal: Mom	1999–2001
b. 47, f. 9	Personal Correspondence	2000–2001
b. 47, f. 10	Schmidt, Sr., Benno: Letters About Dad	1999–2006
b. 47, f. 11	Benno Schmidt Sr.	1997
b. 47, f. 12	Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette	1999–2001
b. 47, f. 13	Humanities	2008
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b. 47, f. 20	Benno Banking	2000–2003
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b. 48, f. 4	Trotter Lecture	2004
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b. 48, f. 16	California School of Professional Psychology	1999
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b. 49, f. 9	Memorandums: Confidential	1999
b. 50, f. 1	Museum Fundraising	2000
b. 50, f. 2	Museum of African Art	2000
b. 50, f. 3	Michael Levine	1997
b. 50, f. 4	New York Regents	2000
b. 50, f. 5	Notes	1998
b. 50, f. 5	NY [New York] Economy	1999

Series IV: Photographs, 1996–2000

This series contains photographic prints and slides featuring Benno Schmidt Jr. including portraits and events photos.

This series maintains order found at acquisition.

b. 51, f. 1	Photos	undated
b. 51, f. 2	Benno and Chris Cerf photos	undated
b. 51, f. 3	Photos - Benno Schmidt and Governor Engler	undated
b. 51, f. 4	Benno's pics	undated
b. 51, f. 5	Benno's pictures	undated
b. 51, f. 6	Photo duplicates	undated
b. 51, f. 7	Slide and photographs	1997
b. 51, f. 8	Photos	2000
b. 51, f. 9	Portrait Benno	1996–1998

Series V: Computer media, 2008

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 52, item 1	New-York Historical Society Programs / 10/2/08 - James Madison and the Constitution / 11/18/08 - The Constitution and the Age of Terror	2008
b. 52, item 2	Benno photo.jpg	undated
b. 52	Columbia Law School's Sesquicentennial: A Conversation with Our Deans	undated

Series VI: Additional subject files, 1986–1992**3.25 linear feet**

This series contains files from Yale's President's Office and the Office of the Secretary created during Benno Schmidt Jr.'s presidency.

This series is arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 53, f. 1-2	American Academy of Arts/ Sciences Fellowship	1986–1988
b. 53, f. 3-8	American Bar Association	1986–1992
b. 53, f. 9	American Czech-and-Slovak Education Fund, Inc.	1990–1991
b. 53, f. 10	American Institute for Public Service - Board of Nominators - Jefferson Award	1988–1989
b. 53, f. 11-16	The American Law Institute	1986–1992
b. 53, f. 17	The American Law Institute Meeting	1991 May 13
b. 53, f. 18	American National Biography	1990–1991
b. 53, f. 19-21	Association of American Law	1986–1989
b. 53, f. 22-27	The Association of the Bar of the City of New York	1986–1992
b. 53, f. 28	Awards	1990–1991
b. 53, f. 29-30	Bicentennial of the Constitution	1986–1988
b. 53, f. 31-36	Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution	1986–1992
b. 53, f. 37-38	The Brearley School	1986–1988
b. 53, f. 39-41	Business-Higher Education Forum - General	1989–1992
b. 53, f. 42	Business-Higher Education Forum - Meeting	1991 January 31
b. 53, f. 43-45	Business-Higher Education Forum - General	1988–1990
b. 53, f. 46	Business-Higher Education Forum, American Potential Standing Committee	1989 June 7
b. 54, f. 1-2	Business-Higher Education Forum	1987–1988
b. 54, f. 3	CBS News Taping - "Bill of Rights"	1986 August 27
b. 54, f. 4	Civil War Amendments	1985–1986
b. 54, f. 5	Class of 1963	1986–1987
b. 54, f. 6	Class of 1963 Dinner	1986–1987
b. 54, f. 7-9	The Club	1988–1991
b. 54, f. 10	Columbia Farewell Dinner	1986 May
b. 54, f. 11-16	Columbia Law School Alumni Association, Inc.	1986–1992
b. 54, f. 17	Congratulatory Letters - Edison Project (A-Z)	1991–1992

b. 54, f. 18	Congratulatory Letters- Columbia Law School Deanship	1983-1984
b. 54, f. 19-21	Connecticut Defense Lawyers Assn.	1988-1991
b. 54, f. 22	Council for the Region Tomorrow	1990-1991
b. 54, f. 23-25	Delta Kappa Epsilon	1989-1991
b. 54, f. 26	Robert Sampson Elegant	1989-1990
b. 54, f. 27-28	Emergency Committee to Defend the First Amendment	1989-1990
b. 54, f. 29	Environmental Vision Award	1991-1992
b. 54, f. 30	Exeter Alumni Reception	1991-1992
b. 54, f. 31-33	First Amendment Theory, Problems of (Law School)	1986-1989
b. 54, f. 34	First Freedom Project	1990-1991
b. 54, f. 35	Foundation for the United States Constitution	1988-1989
b. 54, f. 36-41	Friends of Legal Services for South Central Connecticut	1986-1992
b. 54, f. 42-47	Gannett Foundation Program@ Columbia - National Advisory Committee	1986-1992
b. 54, f. 48	Gibbon's	1987-1988
b. 54, f. 49-52	Gray's Inn, the Honorable Society of	1988-1992
b. 54, f. 53	Harvard Civil Rights Civil Liberties Law Review	1986
b. 54, f. 54-55	Honorary Degrees	1986-1988
b. 54, f. 56	Honorary Degree Regrets	1988-1989
b. 54, f. 57	International Advisory Committee for 1992, International Conference on Ethics of Business in Global Economy	1990-1991
b. 54, f. 58	"Justice for All"	1986 February 21
b. 54, f. 59	Law School Directory	1990-1991
b. 54, f. 60-64	Law School Facebook	1986-1992
b. 54, f. 65-69	Law Teachers Directory	1988-1993
b. 54, f. 70	Literary Theory	1985-1986
b. 54, f. 71	Managing Our Miracles: Health Care in America	1986 September 30
b. 54, f. 72	Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory	1991-1992
b. 54, f. 73-76	Media Law Reporter Advisory Board	1988-1992
b. 55, f. 1-5	National Humanities Center	1986-1992
b. 55, f. 6-12	National Humanities Center - Board of Trustees Meeting	1987-1991

b. 55, f. 13	<i>New York Times</i> Op-Ed Article	1988–1989
b. 55, f. 14-16	Theodore Olson	1986–1987
b. 55, f. 17-18	Organization of American Historians	1989–1991
b. 55, f. 19	Organization of American Historians Lecture, Responses to	1986–1987
b. 55, f. 20-21	Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States	1989–1992
b. 55, f. 22	<i>The Paris Review</i>	1986–1987
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b. 55, f. 25	President's Office--news clippings	1985–1986
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b. 55, f. 46	Transitional Expenses	1986–1987
b. 55, f. 47	University-Teaching, Role of	1988–1989
b. 55, f. 48	Wesleyan University	1987–1989
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b. 55, f. 50	What I've Learned	1990–1991
b. 55, f. 51	Helen C. Whitney	1987–1988

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b. 55, f. 53	WNET: Essays on Constitution	1984

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

Early childhood education -- History
Education, Higher -- United States
Education -- 20th Century
Yale University. Alumni
Yale University -- Employees