
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 979
Arizona. Supreme Court
Records, 1896-1937

DESCRIPTION

Legal documents, correspondence and manuscripts, mostly pertaining to mining claims, irrigation disputes and contract litigation. Most of the cases consist of Albert Steinfeld lawsuits. Includes U. S. Supreme Court-related correspondence and statement.

2 Boxes, 1 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Unknown

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed around 1980; the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean in October 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

Records of the Arizona Supreme Court arranged into two series: 1/Legal Case Documents, 1896-1916 and 2/Miscellany, 1937.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Arizona Supreme Court was authorized in the Act creating the Territory of Arizona on February 24, 1863 and held its first session in Prescott on December 26, 1864. Originally, the Supreme Court consisted of three appellate judges; one Chief Justice and two associate justices appointed by the President to four-year terms. In addition, the territorial legislature designated each of the justices as a trial judge for one of the three divisions of the territorial district court. The majority of judges first appointed by the President were from outside the territory. Judge Richard E. Sloan became the first territorial resident to be appointed to the court in 1889. On February 11, 1891, President Benjamin Harrison signed a bill providing for a fourth Supreme Court judge, and by 1905, the number of judges on the Supreme court had been increased to five. At Statehood, the office became elective and number of judges was reduced to three, elected for two-year terms. Later, the Arizona Constitution revised the term of office to six years, staggered so that one judge was elected every two years.

For Additional information on the Arizona Supreme Court and the Arizona judicial system, see James M. Murphy's *Laws, Courts & Lawyers Through the Years in Arizona*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection relates primarily to legal cases arising over disputed mining stock transfer and mining claims in the early 1900s. Other cases within the collection address homicide charges, irrigation disputes and contract disagreements. The bulk of the collection consists of legal documents and supporting correspondence from cases tried before the Arizona Supreme Court between 1896 and 1916. The majority of these cases were either instigated by, or brought against, Albert Steinfeld. The collection also includes a 1937 statement and correspondence of the subject of proposed presidential changes to the United States Supreme Court.

The Legal Case Documents consists of diverse legal documents from nine Court cases, six of which involve Albert Steinfeld in lawsuits over acquisition of Silver Bell Mining Company stock, Nielsen Mining Company stock sale, misappropriation and disposal of copper ore, merchandise payment obligations and a loan contract dispute centering around a Yuma power plant. The three remaining lawsuits in the series concerning mining title claims in Gila County, irrigation and damming of Show Low Creek and a homicide charge brought against three Pima County law enforcement officials in an accidental shooting death in 1916.

The "Miscellany" series (1937) contains two letters from U. S. Senator Carl Hayden and a copy of a statement made by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Robert H. Jackson to the U. S. Senator Judiciary Committee and President Franklin Roosevelt's proposals to change the constitutional powers of the U. S. Supreme Court.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

SERIES 1: Legal Case Documents, 1896-1916

BOX 1

- f. 1 H. W. Blaisdell v. Albert Steinfeld, Harold Steinfeld & F. R. Pauli (Brief for Appellees), 1913
- f. 2 Gila Valley Copper Company v. W. C. Gilpin, C. S. Case & J. R. Golding, Correspondence & Legal Documents, 1912-13
- f. 3 Henry Huning v. J. E. Porter et al. , Bill of Exceptions, 1896
- f. 4 Henry Huning v. J. E. Porter et al. , Transcript on Appeal, 1898
- f. 5 Charlotte Pickthall, Administratrix of the Estate of John Edwin Francis, deceased v. Albert Steinfeld, Briefs, 1908-1909
- f. 6 Albert Steinfeld, R. K. Shelton, Silver Bell Copper Company and Mammoth Copper Company v. Louis Zeckendorf, Briefs & Petition for Rehearing, 1906-1912
- f. 7 Albert Steinfeld and the Nielsen Mining & Smelting Company v. Mary Nielsen, Administratrix of the Estate of Carl S. Nielsen, deceased and said Mary Neilsen in her own personal right, Appelants' Briefs, 1908-1911

Box 2

- f. 8 Albert Steinfeld v. Omega Copper Company, Abstract of Record & Brief of Appellant, 1911-1913
- f. 9 Albert Steinfeld v. Wing Wong, Appellant's Brief & Abstract of Record, 1912
- f. 10 Joseph L. Wiley, Thomas Johns & Ramon Salazar v. State of Arizona, Certified Copy of Opinion, 1916

SERIES 2: Miscellany, 1937

- f. 11 U. S. Supreme Court. Constitutional Powers, Correspondence & Statement, 1937