

# **A. Leo Levin Papers**

**MSS.015**

**Finding aid prepared by Jessica Lydon and Hoang Tran.**

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Last updated on April 18, 2013.

University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, Manuscripts Collection

2011

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Biddle Law Library: Manuscripts Collection
<b>Creator</b>	Levin, A. Leo, 1919-
<b>Title</b>	A. Leo Levin Papers
<b>Call number</b>	MSS.015
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1935-1996
<b>Extent</b>	30 linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

**Language of Materials note** Two series in this collection include materials in Hebrew: the Bar-Ilan University Series and the Emmanuel Feder File. Please consult these series for more information.

**Abstract** A. Leo Levin, born in 1919 received his B.A. from Yeshiva University in 1939. He attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School and received his J.D. in 1942. Levin then took his first teaching job at the University of Iowa where he taught for two years before returning to his alma mater Penn Law School. Levin taught at Penn Law until his appointment as Director of the Federal Judicial Center in 1977. Levin participated in numerous legal professional organizations such as the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools and the Order of the Coif. Levin also served on a number of high profile judiciary committees such as the Legislative Reapportionment Committee from 1971-1973, the Commission on Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System from 1973-1975, and the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group. Levin produced or contributed to a number of

publications related to the law including *Dispatch and Delay: A Field Study of Judicial Administration in Pennsylvania* with Edward A. Woolley and *Cases and Materials on Civil Procedure* with James H. Chadbourn. Levin's interests were not limited solely to the law as evidenced by his active role in the Jewish Community serving on numerous boards of Jewish centric organizations such as the Jewish Exponent, a weekly newspaper published in Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Jewish Agencies and the Jewish Publication Society.

**Cite as:**

[Identification of item], in the A. Leo Levin Papers, MSS.015, Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania Law School.

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## **Biography/History**

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A. Leo Levin was born in New York in 1919. He received his B.A. from Yeshiva University in 1939 where he would later serve as a visiting law professor and administrator. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School and received his J.D. in 1942. After graduation, Levin served four years in the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant prior to being named a University Fellow at Columbia Law School. Levin then took his first teaching job at the University of Iowa where he taught for two years before returning to his alma mater Penn Law School, first as an assistant law professor in 1949 and finally as a full professor in 1953. Levin taught at Penn Law until his appointment as Director of the Federal Judicial Center in 1977. Levin also spent time teaching at other university law schools often during summer sessions including UCLA, NYU, Duke, Northwestern, and Stanford.

Levin served on a number of high profile judiciary committees such as Chairman of the Legislative Reapportionment Committee from 1971-1973, Executive Director of the Commission on Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System from 1973-1975, Conference Coordinator for the Pound Conference from 1975-1976 and Reporter for the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group. Levin also produced or contributed to a number of publications related to the law including *Dispatch and Delay: A Field Study of Judicial Administration in Pennsylvania* and *Cases and Materials on Civil Procedure*.

Levin's interests were not limited solely to the law as evidenced by his active role in the Jewish Community. To that end, Levin served as president of both the Jewish Exponent, a weekly newspaper published in Philadelphia, and the Jewish Publication Society. He also served on the boards of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Philadelphia and Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Levin married Doris Feder in 1947 with whom he had two sons.

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## Scope and Contents

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The A. Leo Levin Papers, 1935-1996 consist of materials related to Levin's activities both as a legal professional and as a long time educator. The collection includes documents related to Levin's participation in professional organizations such as the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools and the Order of the Coif as well as service on judicial committees such as the Legislative Reapportionment Commission from 1971 to 1973 and the Philadelphia Criminal Justice Task Force from 1989 to 1991. Nearly half of the collection is comprised of subject files which include but are not limited to course materials on compulsory arbitration and civil procedure and documents related to governance at the University of Pennsylvania, Yeshiva University, Bar-Ilan University, and Dropsie University.

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## Arrangement note

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1. Civil Justice Reform Act
2. Pound Conference
3. Jewish Publication Society
4. Philadelphia Criminal Justice Task Force
5. Legislative Reapportionment Commission
6. Writings
7. Speaking Engagements
8. Order of the Coif
9. Pennsylvania Standard Jury Instructions
10. American Bar Association
11. American Judicature Society
12. Yeshiva University
13. Bar-Ilan University
14. Third Circuit Judicial Conference
15. Commission on the Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System
16. Federal Judicial Center
17. The Jewish Exponent
18. Bar Review Institute
19. Emanuel Feder File
20. Correspondence
21. Subject Files

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## Administrative Information

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University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, Manuscripts Collection

2011

Finding aid prepared by Jessica Lydon and Hoang Tran.

### Access Restrictions

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

### Use Restrictions

Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Received from Leo Levin, 1992-1996, with possible later accruals.

### Processing Information note

Processed by Jessica Lydon, February-April 2011.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### CORPORATE NAME(S)

- American Bar Association
- Association of American Law Schools.
- Federal Judicial Center
- Order of the coif

### FORM/GENRE(S)

- Faculty papers

## **SUBJECT(S)**

- Arbitration (Administrative law)
- Civil procedure
- Evidence (Law)
- University of Pennsylvania. Law School -- Faculty

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## **Location of offline container list**

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G:\groups\biddle\SC\archives\repositories\Manuscripts\levin.xlsx

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## **Other Finding Aids note**

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A container list is available offline in spreadsheet form. Please contact the Archives for more information.



## Collection Inventory

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	Box	Folder
<b>CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT ADVISORY GROUP, 1982-1994.</b>	1-4	1-6
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>	5	

In response to the Civil Justice Reform Act passed by Congress in 1990, advisory groups in all ninety-four federal districts were created in an effort to comprise reports to enact expense and delay reductions within the federal court system.

### Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes and transcripts, agendas, draft reports, notes and related material to Leo Levin's participation as reporter for one the advisory groups.

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	Box	Folder
<b>POUND CONFERENCE, 1975-1977.</b>	5	7-10
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>	6-7	1-3
	8	

Alternatively known as Roscoe Pound Revisited, this conference occurred in 1976 and commemorates the speech given by Nathan Roscoe Pound entitled 'The Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction with the Administration of Justice' . Pound's speech was presented at the national conference of the American Bar Association in 1906 and called for the improvement of court administration.

### Scope and Contents note

This series includes correspondence, panel presentation materials, and notes related to Levin's participation as conference coordinator for the Pound Conference and the follow-up task force as well as lists of conferee attendees and press releases.

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	Box	Folder
<b>JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY, 1962-1977.</b>	8	4-18
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	9	1-13
	10	
Correspondence, membership data, sales and publication information, press releases, board and committee correspondence, meeting minutes and agendas related to the activities of Leo Levin at the Jewish Publication Society, a Jewish books publisher located in Philadelphia.		

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	Box	Folder
<b>PHILADELPHIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE, 1989-1991.</b>	10	14-15
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	11	1-2
	12	
Reports, correspondence and memoranda from a panel appointed by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Nix in 1989 to evaluate the reasons contributing to the backlog of cases in the criminal courts of Philadelphia.		

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	Box	Folder
<b>LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION, 1970-1974.</b>	12	3-11
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	13	1-5
Correspondence, statistical information, district maps, action plans, and materials related to Senator Arlen Specter's opposition of the commission's recommendations for remapping of House and Senate districts in Pennsylvania in the early 1970s.		

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	Box	Folder
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<b>WRITINGS, 1952-1975.</b>	13	1-6
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	14	6-7
	15	
The bulk of this series consists of notes and reference materials for chapters from the books <i>Dispatch and Delay</i> and <i>Cases and Materials on Civil Procedure</i> authored by Levin, but also includes book reviews, article drafts, correspondence, rewrites, and editorial notes.	16	

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	Box	Folder
<b>SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, 1963-1995.</b>	16	7-23
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	17	1-10
Correspondence and notes relating to conference addresses, lecture series, guest speaking events, educational seminars, and panel moderation conducted by Leo Levin.		

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	Box	Folder
<b>ORDER OF THE COIF, 1935-1970.</b>	17	11-12
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	18	1-6
	19	
Materials in this series consist predominately of petitions, correspondence and background information from university law schools requesting inclusion as members of the honorary society, the Order of the Coif. Serving as Vice President from 1964-1967 and then President from 1967-1970 of the order, Levin along with other members of the executive committee made recommendations regarding approval or denial of the establishment of new chapters.		

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	Box	Folder
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<b>PENNSYLVANIA STANDARD JURY INSTRUCTIONS, 1969-1972.</b>	19	7-12
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	20	1-5

Outlines, drafts, correspondence, and meeting minutes related to the creation of a standardized set of instructions to be communicated to juries during the civil and criminal court processes.

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, 1956-1989.</b>	20	6-11
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	21	1-9

This series comprised of correspondence, committee reports, conference proceedings and associated materials that document Levin's participation in American Bar Association activities.

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY, 1984-1989.</b>	21	10-11
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	22	1-7

Special committee meeting minutes, memoranda and correspondence related to Levin's tenure as President of the American Judicature Society, a national professional organization that promotes judicial administration through research and specialized programming.

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Box</b>
<b>YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, 1962-1970.</b>	22	8-12
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		

Correspondence, university timeline and alumni association materials.

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	Box	Folder
<b>BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY, 1964-1980.</b>	22	13-14

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, board minutes and related materials in conjunction with Levin's service to the board of Bar-Ilan University located in Israel.

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	Box	Folder
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, 1975-1995.</b>	22	15
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	23	1-2

This series contains conference pamphlets, program listings, panel discussion materials, agendas and correspondence related to the Third Circuit conferences held in 1975, 1987, and 1995 respectively.

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	Box	Folder
<b>COMMISSION ON THE REVISION OF THE FEDERAL COURT APPELLATE SYSTEM, 1973-1976.</b>	23	3-10

**Scope and Contents note**

Consists of correspondence, memoranda and notes related to the recommendations made for the improvement of structure and procedure of the federal appeals system.

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	Box	Folder
<b>FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER, 1977-1989.</b>	23	11-13
	24	1-3

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**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence and memoranda related to Levin's term as director of the Federal Judicial Center whose responsibility was to conduct research on the administration of justice and court management as well as providing education and training for federal judges and court personnel.

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	Box	Folder
<b>THE JEWISH EXPONENT, 1938-1973.</b>	24	4-9

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of correspondence and clippings of articles written by Leo Levin from the Philadelphia based weekly newspaper, the Jewish Exponent.

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	Box	Folder
<b>BAR REVIEW INSTITUTE, 1972-1976.</b>	25	1-4

**Scope and Contents note**

This series includes lecture notes, outlines and correspondence which relates to Levin's participation in reviewing bar examination questions, and answer keys for the Bar Review Institute as well as providing preparatory instruction.

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	Box	Folder
<b>EMANUEL FEDER FILE, 1938-1971.</b>	25	5-9

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of materials related to the Feder Foundation and the Famous Knitwear Corporation. These include board minutes, correspondence, loan fund reports and a stockholders agreement.

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	Box	Folder
<b>CORRESPONDENCE, 1961-1972.</b>	26	1-8
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	27	1-3

The Correspondence series spans fifty years and includes written communication to and from legal educators, judges, lawyers, and politicians such as Bernard Segal, former Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, Attorney General Griffin Bell, Nebraska Senator Roman Hruska.

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	Box
<b>SUBJECT FILES, 1942-1996.</b>	28-39

**Arrangement note**

Alphabetical by subject.

**Other Finding Aids note**

For more information about the contents of this series, please contact the Archives to review the collection's container list.