

# **Francis R. Kirkham Law Clerk Papers**

**NBA.032**

**Finding aid prepared by Jordon Steele.**

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Last updated on April 28, 2011.

University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, National Bankruptcy Archives

2009

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Biddle Law Library: National Bankruptcy Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Kirkham, Francis R. (Francis Robison), 1904-1996
<b>Title</b>	Francis R. Kirkham Law Clerk Papers
<b>Call number</b>	NBA.032
<b>Date</b>	circa 1935-1938
<b>Extent</b>	1.3 linear feet (about 25 items)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Box]</b>	1-2
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Francis Kirkham (1904-1996) was born in Utah in 1904. After earning his undergraduate and law degrees from George Washington University, Kirkham clerked for two Supreme Court Justices, including former Chief Justice Evan Hughes. During his time as a law clerk, Kirkham drafted a report suggesting revisions to the way people filed for bankruptcy, which was a pertinent issue in the wake of the Great Depression. This report, "Suggested Revisions to the General Orders and Forms of Bankruptcy," was published in 1939. The collection, circa 1935-1939, includes correspondence with Supreme Court Justices, drafts, reports, National Bankruptcy Conference drafts, and related material regarding Kirkham's activity as a Supreme Court law clerk drafting the "General Order and Rules of Bankruptcy," which was published in 1939.</p>

**Cite as:**

[Identification of item], in the Francis R. Kirkham Papers, National Bankruptcy Archives, NBA.032, Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA.

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## **Biography/History**

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Francis Kirkham was born in Utah in 1904. After earning his undergraduate and law degrees from George Washington University, Kirkham clerked for two Supreme Court Justices, including former Chief Justice Evan Hughes. During his time as a law clerk, Kirkham drafted a report suggesting revisions to the way people filed for bankruptcy, which was a pertinent issue in the wake of the Great Depression. This report, "Suggested Revisions to the General Orders and Forms of Bankruptcy," was published in 1939. Kirkham joined the law firm of Pillsbury Madison and Sutro in 1936, becoming a partner in 1940. He remained there until his retirement.

During his career, Kirkham served on many legal boards and committees. He was Chair of the antitrust section of the American Bar Association, and he was appointed to the National Commission on the Revision of the Federal Appellate System in the 1970s.

Kirkham died in 1996.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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The Francis R. Kirkham Law Clerk Papers, circa 1935-1939, include correspondence with Supreme Court Justices, drafts, reports, National Bankruptcy Conference drafts, and related material regarding Kirkham's activity as a Supreme Court law clerk drafting the "General Order and Rules of Bankruptcy," which was published in 1939.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Access Restrictions**

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

### **Use Restrictions**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Received from James Joannides of Pillsbury Madison and Sutro in March 2009.

### **Processing Information note**

Processed by Jordon Steele, April 2009.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **CORPORATE NAME(S)**

- National Bankruptcy Conference (U.S.)
- United States. Supreme Court

### **FORM/GENRE(S)**

- Legislation (legal concepts)

### **SUBJECT(S)**

- Bankruptcy