

Criminal Justice--Youth Committee Records

ALI.04.024

Finding aid prepared by Jordon Steele.

Last updated on April 28, 2011.

University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, American Law Institute Archives

2008

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Biddle Law Library: American Law Institute Archives
Creator	American Law Institute
Title	Criminal Justice--Youth Committee Records
Call number	ALI.04.024
Date [inclusive]	1935-1959
Extent	4 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>In 1938, the American Law Institute (ALI) formed the Criminal Justice--Youth Committee to review the findings of a New York City study of criminal behavior among young people called "Youth in the Toils." The culmination of the committee's work was the Model Youth Correction Authority Act, a model act that favored the integration of a number of youth treatment processes already employed by various states. The committee also proposed the creation of a Youth Authority, a state-wide panel that would handle sentencing guidelines, with an emphasis on treatment and not punishment, for all underage criminal offenders. Following the Model Youth Corrections Authority Act's promulgation in 1940, the ALI appointed a special adviser, John R. Ellington, to help states adopt Youth Authority legislation. This outreach effort was known as the Youth Authority Program. The Youth Authority Program lasted until 1951. The collection, 1935-1959, includes background information, correspondence, meeting minutes, drafts, comments, memoranda, reports, publications, and related material</p>

regarding the drafting of the Model Youth Correction Authority Act, adopted by the ALI in 1940, and the Youth Authority Program, an initiative that encouraged state adoption of the Youth Authority legislation.

Cite as:

[Identification of item], in the Criminal Justice--Youth Committee Records, American Law Institute Archives, ALI.04.024, Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Biography/History

In 1938, the American Law Institute (ALI) formed the Criminal Justice--Youth Committee to review the findings of a New York City study of criminal behavior among minors called " Youth in the Toils." The culmination of the committee's work was the Model Youth Correction Authority Act (also known as the " Youth Correction Authority Act" and the " Youth Court Act"), a model act that favored the integration of a number of youth treatment processes already employed by various states. The committee also proposed the creation of a Youth Authority, a state-wide panel that would handle sentencing guidelines, with an emphasis on treatment and not punishment, for all underage criminal offenders.

The Model Youth Correction Authority Act was adopted by the ALI in 1940. Following its promulgation, the ALI appointed a special adviser, John R. Ellington, to help states adopt Youth Authority legislation. This outreach effort was known as the Youth Authority Program. The Youth Authority Program lasted until 1951.

Scope and Contents

The Criminal Justice--Youth Committee Records, 1935-1959, include background information, correspondence, meeting minutes, drafts, comments, memoranda, reports, publications, and related records regarding the drafting of the Model Youth Correction Authority Act, adopted by the ALI in 1940, and the Youth Authority Program, an initiative that encouraged state adoption of Youth Authority legislation.

Arrangement note

Arrangement

1. Biographical Records About Project Members
2. Fundraising Records
3. Correspondence
4. Meeting Records
5. Drafts, Comments, and Related Records
6. Publications

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

None.

Use Restrictions

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

First shipment received from the American Law Institute in 1995.

Processing Information note

Preliminary container list prepared by Melissa Backes, 1995-2005.
Processed and encoded by Jordon Steele, May 2008.

Controlled Access Headings

SUBJECT(S)

- Criminal Law
- Juvenile delinquency

Other Finding Aids note

An item-level container list is available offline in spreadsheet form.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS ABOUT PROJECT MEMBERS, CIRCA 1938. ABOUT 10 ITEMS.	1	1-2

Scope and Contents note

A committee roster and page-length biographies of committee members and Youth Authority Program Special Adviser John Ellingston.

	Box	Folder
FUNDRAISING RECORDS, 1935. 2 ITEMS.	1	3-4

Scope and Contents note

A report prepared by William Draper Lewis that estimates the cost for the proposed project and a statement from the American Law Institute's Executive Committee that proposes the project to the Rockefeller Foundation.

	Box	Folder
CORRESPONDENCE, 1939-1959. ABOUT 1500 ITEMS.	1	5-40
Scope and Contents note	2	1-16

Primarily letters and related records sent to American Law Institute members during the activity of the Youth Authority Program.

	Box	Folder
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MEETING RECORDS, 1938-1951. ABOUT 35 ITEMS.

2

17-28

Scope and Contents note

Minutes and reports from meetings of the Criminal Justice--Youth Committee and other American Law Institute meetings.

**DRAFTS, COMMENTS, AND RELATED RECORDS, 1938-1951 AND
UNDATED. ABOUT 230 ITEMS.**

Box

Folder

2

29-37

3

1-56

4

1-26

Scope and Contents note

Drafts, memoranda, comments from consultants and advisers, reports from prior crime-related codification projects, correspondence, and related material reflecting the work of the Criminal Justice--Youth Committee on projects including the Model Youth Correction Authority Act, adopted by the American Law Institute in 1940, and the subsequently commissioned Youth Authority Program.

PUBLICATIONS, 1940-CIRCA 1941. 5 ITEMS.

Box

Folder

4

27-31

Scope and Contents note

Published material issued by the American Law Institute following its adoption of the Model Youth Correction Authority Act. These publications helped explain the ALI's position on the Model Youth Correction Authority Act, the Youth Authority Program, and, generally, the criminal behavior of minors.