

Ralph H. Kelley Papers

NBA.002

Finding aid prepared by Jordon Steele.

Last updated on April 28, 2011.

University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, National Bankruptcy Archives

2009

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Arrangement note.....	5
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	6
Collection Inventory.....	7
Administrative Office of the United States Papers.....	7
Correspondence.....	9
Organizational Activity.....	11
Writings.....	15
Testimony Files.....	15
National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Papers.....	15
Subject Files.....	17
News Clippings.....	19
Honors, Awards, and Biographical Material.....	19

Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Biddle Law Library: National Bankruptcy Archives
Creator	Kelley, Ralph H. (Ralph Houston), 1928-2004
Title	Ralph H. Kelley Papers
Call number	NBA.002
Date [inclusive]	1967-2004
Extent	24 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Ralph H. Kelley (1928-2004) was appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Sixth Federal Judicial Circuit in 1969. In 1993 he retired as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee but remained the court's senior judge. He was a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, where he served as President from 1985 to 1986. In 1980, Ralph Kelley was appointed to the Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States, where he served until 1990. The collection (1967-2004) includes letters and memoranda with the Administrative Office of the United States, congressional leaders, and bankruptcy judges; programs, promotional material, and other material relating to seminars, workshops, conferences, and other meetings in which Kelley was invited to participate; congressional testimony by Kelley before various congressional committees; essays and other writings generated by Kelley; speeches, lectures, and other presentations created by Kelley; subject files, created and maintained by Kelley, relating to</p>

Kelley's key legislative advocacy, including support for an increase in bankruptcy judgeships, improved salaries and retirement benefits for bankruptcy judges, and Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code; publications, releases, directories, news clippings, and other papers not created by Kelley but used by Kelley for reference; and letters, press releases, video material, and other material commemorating and honoring the life and work of Kelley.

Cite as:

[Identification of item], in the Ralph H. Kelley Papers, NBA.002, National Bankruptcy Archives, Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Biography/History

Ralph H. Kelley was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. in 1928. Following his service in the Air Force during World War II, Kelley graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School. From 1959 to 1961 he served in the Tennessee House of Representatives before his election as Mayor of Chattanooga in 1963. Kelley was appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Sixth Federal Judicial Circuit in 1969. In 1993 he retired as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee but remained the court's senior judge. He was a career-long member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, where he served as President from 1985 to 1986. In 1980, Ralph Kelley was appointed to the Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States, where he served until 1990. For over thirty years, Kelley used his experience and clout as a respected bankruptcy judge to lobby various congressional committees on behalf of bankruptcy reform and improved financial compensation for bankruptcy judges.

Scope and Contents

The Ralph H. Kelley Papers (1967-2004) contain materials relating to Ralph Kelley's career as a United States Bankruptcy Judge from 1969 until his death in 2004. The collection includes letters and memoranda with the Administrative Office of the United States, congressional leaders, and bankruptcy judges; programs, promotional material, and other material relating to seminars, workshops, conferences,

and other meetings in which Kelley was invited to participate; congressional testimony by Kelley before various congressional committees on the subjects including bankruptcy reform and benefits for bankruptcy judges; essays and other writings generated by Kelley, particularly in the area of Chapter 13 legislation; speeches, lectures, and other presentations created by Kelley; subject files, created and maintained by Kelley, relating to Kelley's key legislative advocacy, including support for an increase in bankruptcy judgeships, improved salaries and retirement benefits for bankruptcy judges, and Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code; publications, releases, directories, news clippings, and other papers not created by Kelley but used by Kelley for reference; and letters, press releases, video material, and other material commemorating and honoring the life and work of Kelley.

Arrangement note

Arrangement

1. Administrative Office of the United States Papers
 2. Correspondence
 3. National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Papers
 4. Organizational Activity
 5. Writings
 6. Testimony Files
 7. Subject Files
 8. News Clippings
 9. Honors, Awards, and Biographical Material
 10. Unprocessed Papers
-

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, National Bankruptcy Archives

2009

Finding aid prepared by Jordon Steele.

Access Restrictions

None.

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 Barbara F. Kelley in September 2004.

Processing Information note

Processed and encoded by Jordon Steele, June-July 2006.
Re-processed by Jordon Steele, December 2006-January 2007.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (U.S.)
- United States. Administrative Office of the United States Courts

FORM/GENRE(S)

- DVDs
- Photographs

SUBJECT(S)

- Bankruptcy

Collection Inventory

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES PAPERS, 1972-2001. 1.75 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 1000 ITEMS).

Scope and Contents note

Memoranda, committee files, letters, meeting materials, reports, subject files, and related materials regarding Kelley's work as a liaison between the bankruptcy judges and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, which handles personnel matters related to federal judges.

	Box	Folder
MEMORANDA, 1979-1987.	1	1-3
	2	1-5

COMMITTEE FILES, 1983-2001.

	Box	Folder
Bankruptcy Clerks' Advisory Committee, 1983-1986.	3	1-3
	2	6
Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Committee, 2001 April 26-27.	3	4

CORRESPONDENCE, 1979-2001.

	Box	Folder
General, 1979-1984.	3	5-6
Cavan, Daniel R., 1985-1986.	3	7

Garabedian, Edward V., 1986-1987.	3	8
Johnson, R. Glenn, 1987.	3	9
Karam, Raymond A., 1989.	3	10
Macklin, James E., Jr., 1986.	3	11
Meacham, L. Ralph, 1985-2001.	3 4	12 1-2
Pellicoro, Robert J., 1985-1987.	4	3
Szczebak, Francis F., 1999.	4	4
Weller, William (Legislative Affairs Officer), 1985.	4	5

MEETINGS, 1981-1995.

	Box	Folder
Work Management Review Meeting, 1981-1982.	4	6
Washington, D.C. Strategy Meeting, 1987 August.	4	7
Bankruptcy Court Automation Project Meeting Materials, 1986-1991.	4	8-9
Pre-Retirement Seminar for Bankruptcy and Magistrate Judges, 1995 September 27-29.	4	10

	Box	Folder
PERSONNEL MATTERS, 1979-1983.	4	11

	Box	Folder
REPORTS, 1982.	4	12

SUBJECT FILES, 1972-1980.

	Box	Folder
Administrative Functions of the Court, 1979.	4	13
Cost Studies, 1974-1975.	5	1
Referee Performance Reviews, 1972, 1980.	5	2-3

CORRESPONDENCE, 1969-2002. 2.75 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 4800 ITEMS).

Scope and Contents note

Mainly professional correspondence with bankruptcy judges and members of congress, including Peter Rodino and Al Gore.

PERSONAL, 1969-1979.	Box 5	Folder 4
GENERAL PROFESSIONAL, 1970-1990.	Box 5 6-11 12	Folder 1-5 5-8
BUTLER, M. CALDWELL, 1985-1995.	Box 12	Folder 6
FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER, 1980-1983.	Box 12	Folder 7
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, 1981-1986.	Box 12	Folder 8
GROSS, JACK, 1986-1987.	Box 12	Folder 9

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS, 1980-1989.

	Box	Folder
Bouquard, Marilyn Lloyd, 1981-1989.	12	10
Cooper, Jim, 1982-1983.	12	11
Duncan, John J., 1982-1983.	13	1
Gore, Albert Jr., 1982-1989.	13	2
Kastenmeier, Robert W., 1980-1985.	13	3
Quillen, James H., 1983.	13	4
Rodino, Peter W. Jr., 1983-1987.	13	5
Sundquist, Don, 1982-1983.	13	6
Synar, Mike, 1986.	13	7
House Judiciary Committee, 1986.	13	8
Other Representatives, 1984-1987.	13	9

SENATORS, 1981-2002.

	Box	Folder
Baker, Howard H., 1981-2002.	13	10
Heflin, Howell, 1982-1983.	13	11
Sasser, Jim, 1981-1990.	13	12-13
Thurmond, Strom, 1982-1986.	13	14

Senate Judiciary Committee, 1986.	13	15
Other Senators, 1984-1986.	13	16
JUDGES, 1979-1989.		
	Box	Folder
Bare, Clive W., 1979-1986.	13	17
Briskman, Arthur B., 1986-1987.	13	18
Clark, Charles, 1984-1989.	13	19
Circuit Judges File, 1981-1982.	13	20
District Judges File, 1985-1990.	13	21
Other Bankruptcy Judges, 1979-1986.	14	1
	13	22
	Box	Folder
STATON, THOMAS J., 1985-1986.	14	2

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY, 1973-2002.

Scope and Contents note

Materials relating to seminars, workshops, annual meetings, committee meetings, and other meetings that Judge Kelley attended, participated in, and presented at.

	Box	Folder
Administrative Management Society: "Managing the Dual Career Couple",	14	3

1981 November-December.

Alabama Bar Association Annual Seminar, 1985-1986.

14

4

American Bankruptcy Institute, 1986-1993.

14

5-11

American Bar Association, 1973-1990.

17

1-8

15-16

American College of Bankruptcy, 1992-1998.

17

9

American Law Institute-American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Professional Education, 1978-1988.

17

10-12

American Public Power Association, 1982-1984.

17

13-14

Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, 1995.

17

15

The Bankruptcy Institute, 1979.

17

16

Chapter 13 Attorneys' Fees Seminar, 1986 December.

17

17

Chattanooga Bar Association, 1977-1982.

18

1-2

Chattanooga Chapter of Credit Unions, 1988-1989.

18

3-4

Columbia University Alumni Consumer Credit Management Conference, 1980-1981.

18

5

Conference on Consumer Finance Law, 1988-1989.

18

6-9

Credit league Union Association League Attorneys Conference, 1980.

18

10

E.A. Anderson Lecture Series, 1988-1989.

18

11

Federal Bankruptcy Law Institute, 1984.

18

12

Federal Judges Association, 1985.	18	13
Federal Judicial Center, 1979-1991.	20	1-4
	19	1-10
	18	14-18
Judicial Conference of the United States, 1979-1990.	21-27	5-7
	20	1-6
	28	
Judicial Secretaries Association, 1979-1986.	28	7
Legal Terminology Seminar, 1981 August-September.	28	8
Louisiana Credit Union League, 1980-1982, 1990.	28	9-11
Knoxville Bar Association and Knoxville Legal Aid Society, 1984.	28	12
Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, 1979-1982, 1993, 1998.	29	1-5
Mid-South Conference on Bankruptcy Law: Automatic Stay Issues, 2002 February 28.	29	6
Mississippi Bar Association Seminar, 1979 June-November.	29	7
Motlow State Community College Seminar, 1983 January-February.	29	8
National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, 1981-1985.	29	9-13
National Association of Credit Management, 1986-1989.	30	1
National Business Institute, 1987-1989.	30	2-3
National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, 1984-1990.	30	4-7
National Conference of Special Court Judges, 1985-1989.	35	1-5

National Consumer Finance Association Seminar, 1980 December- 1981 March.	35	6
National Credit Teleseminar, 1979-1981.	35	7
National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar: "The Market Economy, Economic performance, and Cultural Impact", 1979 May-July 12, 26, 27.	35	8-9
The New Bankruptcy Code: Seminar on Bankruptcy", 1980.	35	10
New Jersey Credit Union League, 1982 July-October.	35	11
New York University Bankruptcy Workshop, 1982, 1984-1985.	35 36	12-13 1-2
"Practical Aspects of New Bankruptcy Practice: A Mini-Seminar", 1990.	36	3
Practicing Law Institute, 1978, 1982-1984.	36	4-6
Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, 1979-1990.	36 37	7-15 1-2
Stetson University Annual Seminars on Bankruptcy Law and Practice, 1978, 1983-1984, 1987-1989.	37	3-8
Tennessee Bar Association, 1979-1982.	37	9-13
Tennessee Credit Union League, 1983.	37	14
Tennessee Law Institute, 1979, 1990.	37	15-16
Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, 1983-1984.	37	17
United States-Japan Bilateral Session: "A New Era in Legal and Economic Legislation", 1988 April.	37	18
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Household Budgeting Course, 1980	37	19

October- 1981 January.

Vanderbilt Bankruptcy Symposia, 1984 December- 1985 March. 37 20

Washington County Bar Association Seminar, 1984 December- 1985 March. 37 21

Wholesale Credit Women's Group of Chattanooga, 1982 June-August. 37 22

WRITINGS, 1970, 1978-1992. 0.75 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 100 ITEMS).

Box Folder
38 1-5
39 1-2

Scope and Contents note

Mainly speeches, lectures, and other presentations written by Kelley for seminars and other meetings to which he was invited. This series also includes handwritten notes and exposition written by Kelley on a range of bankruptcy-related topics, including Chapter 13.

TESTIMONY FILES, 1981-1987. 0.5 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 60 ITEMS).

Box Folder
39 3-7

Scope and Contents note

Copies of testimony Kelley gave before House and Senate Committees related to bankruptcy judge matters.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES PAPERS, 1977-1999.

Box Folder

BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1978-1986.

30

8-17

COMMITTEES, 1983-1989.

Box

Folder

Committee on Compensation, 1986.

30

18

Executive Committee, 1985 September-November.

30

19

Legislative Committee, 1983, 1988-1989.

30

20-22

Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules Liaison Committee, 1979 June.

30

23

National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks Liaison Committee, 1981-1983.

30

24

Box

Folder

CORRESPONDENCE, 1969-1990.

30

25

31

1

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY, 1982-1999.

Box

Folder

General, 1982-1999.

31

2-7

32

1-6

Insurance, 1991-1999.

32

7-8

33

1-2

Judicial Survivors' Annuities System, 1991.

33

3

Retirement, 1995.

33

4

Box

Folder

MEETINGS, 1977-1994.

33

5-10

34

1-14

SUBJECT FILES, 1967-2003. 8 LINEAR FEET.

Scope and Contents note

As a federal bankruptcy court judge for over 30 years, Judge Kelley was an active and influential advocate for his fellow federal judges and bankruptcy reform. The materials in this series include Kelley's involvement in advising Congress on legislative matters that include the need for additional federal judgeships, judicial retirement benefits, improved salaries for federal judges, and bankruptcy reform.

	Box	Folder
General Legislative Papers, 1968-2000.	40-41	8
	39	1-2
	42	
Additional Judgeships, 1980-1991, 1999.	43	1-6
	42	3-6
	44	1-3
Bankruptcy Specialization Certification, 1975-1977.	44	4
Business Law, 1989.	44	5
Chapter 13, 1964-1998.	44	6-7
	45	1-11
Consolidation of Clerks' Office, 1986-1989, 1996-1998.	46	1
	45	12-13
Contempt, 1985-1986.	46	2
Credit Card Debt, 1990.	46	3
Estate Administration, 1986-1988.	46	4
Ethics Reform, 1990.	46	5

Farm Bankruptcy, 1985-1986.	46	6
FEGLI "Fix", 1999-2002.	46	7
Grievances, 1984-1985.	47	1
Interview with Chief Justice Rehnquist, 1997.	47	2
Judicial Retirement, 1970-2002.	48-49 47 50	3-7 1-5
Judicial Salaries, 1975-1989, 2001-2003.	51-54 50 55	6-9 1-2
Judicial Survivors' Annuities Program, 1989-1992.	55	3
Keith M. Lundin's Chapter 13 Book Draft, undated.	56 55	1 4
Life Insurance, 2000.	56	2
Magistrate Retirement, 1986.	56	3-5
Merit Selection of Bankruptcy Judges, 1985-1986.	56	6
Northern Pipeline vs. Marathon Pipeline Case, 1982.	56	7-8
Pilot Data Processing, 1968-1983.	56	9
Proposed Model Rule Governing References to Bankruptcy Judges, 1985 June-July.	56	10
Recall of Bankruptcy Judges, 1990-2000.	57	1-2
Selections from Congressional Record, 1984 March 6.	57	3

Staffing of Bankruptcy Court Clerks' Offices, 1984 January.	57	4
Taxation of Cost, 1967-1970.	57	5
Title 11, 1984.	57	6
United States Trustee Program, 1981-1986, 1991.	58 57	1-3 7-9

	Box	Folder
NEWS CLIPPINGS, 1984-1989. 0.25 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 50 ITEMS).	58	4-5

HONORS, AWARDS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL, 1968-2004. 1.5 LINEAR FEET (ABOUT 50 ITEMS).

	Box	Folder
Bankruptcy Judge Appointment, 1986 October.	59	1
Letters of Congratulations, 1968-1974.	59	2
Recall Announcement, 2002.	59	3
Oral History Project, 2002.	59	4
Tributes, 1993, 2001.	59	5

Video Tributes, 1993-2004.

	Box	Cassette
"An Evening Honoring Judge Ralph H. Kelley", 1993 September 17.	60	1

"MTAS: Reflections of 50 Years of Service", 1999.	60	2
"Ralph H. Kelley: A Lifetime of Service", 2004.	60	3
"Ralph H. Kelley: Celebrating a Lifetime of Service", 2004.	60	4
	Box	Folder
"Dealing with Debt: Bankruptcy and Other Options", undated.	60	5
Oral History Project Video, undated.	60	6