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St. Mary's University Archives
Inventory UA 16
Records about the
School of Law
Subgroup Number: UA 16

StMU

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Descriptive Summary

Repository Archives of Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas
Donors Administrative Offices of St. Mary's University
Creator Administrative Offices of St. Mary's University
Title Records about School of Law, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas
Inclusive Dates 1935-2008
Bulk Dates 1970-1994
Reference Code UA 16
Languages English
Extent 3 cubic feet
Abstract The extant records of the Law School of Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas are assembled from the offices of the president, the vice president for academics, and other administrators. These records were generated by various administrators in pursuit of the educational objectives of the university. They include memos and letters between the law deans and the university administration, deliberations about educational policy, about faculty compensation, about tenure policies, and about curriculum. Also present are some records relating to law student associations, programs for in-service legal education ("law clinics"), and law school publications.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access: None
Usage Restrictions: None
Alternative Form of Material: Scanned materials at <http://stmupublichistory.org/law/>;
Exploring Our Past: Histories of St. Mary's School of Law. Included are references to Law School related content in *The Rattler* (student newspaper), the *Diamondback* (annual), and periodical publications of the Law School: *The Barrister*, *Legal Beagle*, and *Witan*
Custodial History: The records assembled into this subgroup were transferred from the administrative offices of the University directly to the University Archives where they have remained in custody continuously since.

Acquisitions Information: Around June 1994, the offices in St. Louis Hall transferred many records to the University Archives principally from the president, the vice president for academics, the vice president for finances, and the registrar. The university archivist at that time extracted from these any records concerning the Law School and formed them into a subgroup. From the 1990s to 2010, the university archivist added records to the Law School subgroup as they were transferred to the archives from any office. None of the records in Law School subgroup came to the University Archives directly from the Law School.

Processing Information: The Law School subgroup was assembled from records received from different sources. In most cases, the file folders were kept intact but were assigned new subject headings. Some file folders were consolidated with similar contents in other folders. Still other file folders were purposely constructed from isolated items solely on the basis of subject similarity. These various file folders were arranged by two methods. Some were arranged chronologically by the tenure of the individual law deans. Alternatively, series that exceeded the tenure of a single law dean were arranged alphabetically by file folder titles.

Preferred Citation: Saint Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas

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Related Materials in Other Collections:

- University Communications Photograph Collection – photographs of Law School events
- University Publications – publications produced by the law students, by or for the law alumni, by the law dean, and by the Law School collectively.

Administrative History Note

The School of Law was added to the University on October 1, 1934. Previous to this date it was operated independently of any accrediting authority by the Bar Association of San Antonio. Beginning in October 1927, classes were offered in the Bexar County Courthouse under the direction of a Board of Governors. This arrangement continued for seven years. On October 1, 1934 the law school was officially transferred to St. Mary's University. Classes moved to the former downtown campus of St. Mary's College located at 112 College Street, the present site of La Manson Del Rio on the Riverwalk. The first dean was Anton N. Moursand, a San Antonio attorney; who was followed by Henry B. Dielman from 1938 to 1942. Very few records remain from the early days in the 1930s. During the years of World War II (1942-1945) operations were curtailed. Then in 1946, Ernest A. Raba began as law dean and the school was reorganized to meet the requirements of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools. In February 1948, the American Bar Association approved the school, and in December 1949, the school was admitted to membership in the Association of American Law Schools. In December 1966 the Law School moved to temporary quarters at 213 East Travis Street, immediately behind the Gunter Hotel, until in January 1968, when it began classes in newly built quarters at the Woodlawn campus. In 1969, the Law School launched the *St. Mary's Law Journal*. During the 1970s the Law School grew in complexity and made adjustments to fit better into the general university structure. In 1989, Barbara Bader Aldave became the first woman dean of any school at St. Mary's and the only woman dean at any of the eight law schools in Texas. During her tenure clinical legal education and *pro bono* public service projects for the students became an important focus as well as admission of students from minority ethnic groups.

Collection Overview

The extant records about the Law School of Saint Mary's University are assembled from the offices of the president, the vice president for academics, and other administrators. These records were generated mostly by interaction between the university administration and the law school deans; and to a lesser extent the law faculty, students, and law alumni. The records between the deans and the university administration concern the attainment of the educational objectives of the university. The deliberations of the law faculty are about educational policy, faculty compensation, tenure policies, and curriculum. Also present to a lesser degree are records relating to the law library, the law student associations, the programs for in-service legal education ("law clinics"), and law student publications. A number of records concern the alumni of the law school. Among the annual events with representation in the records are Commencements (1961-2000), Law Day (1957-1978), and the "Red Mass" (1952-2004). A small collection of newspaper clippings (1937-2000) about the Law School are consolidated into a series by date. Around 2020 the Public History Program sought information from the Law School about the existence of archives in its care and after a diligent search came to the conclusion that none remained from previous deanships. If their findings are correct, then this assemblage of records is all that remains.

Summary of Series

Series 1: First Years, 1934-1946

Series 2: Law Deans, 1946-2008

- 1: Ernest A. Raba, 1946-1978
- 2: James N. Castleberry, Jr. 1978-1989
- 3: Barbara Aldave, 1989-1998
- 4: R. William Piatt, 1998-2007
- 5: Charles Cantu, 2007-2008 (Interim Dean)

Series 3: General Series, 1946-2008

- Advisory Council to the Dean, 1973-1980
- Alumni Foundation, 1970-1979
- Alumni (Law School), 1983-2004
- American Bar Association Accreditation, 1980, 1986, 1994
- American Bar Association Standards, 1931-2000
- Campus Minister to Law School, 1992-2007
- Clinics, 1992-2001
- Commencements, 1961-2000
- Curriculum, 1960-2000
- Dean Appointments, 1977-2004
- Events, 1960-1995
- Law Faculty, 1927-2000
- Law Faculty Meetings, 1954-1999
- Law Day, 1957-1978
- Law School Publications, 1968-1981
- Law Library, 1974-1986
- Military Recruitment at Law School, 1992-2002
- Press Coverage, 1937-2000
- Red Mass, 1952-2004
- "Soros Proposal" for Law Revitalization, 1997-2000
- Students, 1940s-2008
- Student Organizations, 1962-2008

Series 1: First Years, 1934-1946

History Note: Although the earliest document among the law school records bears the date 1931, it is a brochure published by the American Bar Association. The earliest document generated by the Law School dates only to 1935. During these first years, the law school functioned under the accreditation of St. Mary's University. From 1938 to 1942, Henry B. Dielman, from among the law faculty, served as "dean-registrar." No one with the title of dean functioned during the years of World War II (1942-1945). Then in 1946, Ernest A. Raba from among the law faculty was appointed law dean.

C8C/61	ABA Standards for Legal Education	1931
C8C/62	Tentative Statement of Fundamental Objectives	[1934?]
C8D/73a	Law Library Index	1935
C8C/9a	Advisory Council to School of Law Student Governing Board constitution	1937
C8D/87a	Law School Reports There are two reports. The first is signed by St. Mary's president Fr. Alfred H. Rabe (1928-1938) but is undated; it lists the law faculty at that time, their backgrounds and salaries. The second report is dated to June 19, 1937, but is unsigned. Its most likely author is the "Dean-Registrar" at that time, Mr. Henry Dielman.	1938
C8D/104	Law School Dance Program names "Dean Henry B. Dielman"	1938
C8C/35a	Correspondence on Law School matters Letter of thanks from university president to a law school donor	1939
C8D/105	Barristers' Association By-laws, Student Bar Association	[1930s?]

Description Note: The following lists include data recovered from as early as 1927 but these lists do not date from then; rather, they were compiled fifty years later or more from sources uncited.

C8C/42a	Law Faculty Lists	1927-2000
C8D/72	Law Faculty Lists (annotated)	1927-1977
C8C/11a	Alumni Foundation, School of Law	1937-

Series 2: Law Deans, 1946-2008

1: Ernest A. Raba, 1946-1978

C8D/87b	Dean's Reports	1949-1978
C8C/35a	Correspondence on Law School matters during Raba's term This folder was transferred from the records of the President	1939-1978
C8C/36	Correspondence with the President This folder was transferred from the records of the President	1954-1978
C8C/18	School of Law Board of Trustees By-laws and minutes of annual meeting	1960
C8D/98	Silver Jubilee of Law School Minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 26, 1960	1960
C8D/67	Proposal for "Law Center" (Woodlawn campus) Relates to construction of law school facilities at the Woodlawn campus	1960-1968
C8D/117	Grant Application for "St. Mary's Law Center" Application is from the records of President Louis Blume. March 19 is the principal feast of St. Joseph (this was not a coincidence).	1965 Mar 19
C8C/20a	Budget Allocation Policy This folder was constructed using records from various offices. Among the contents is a document "Situating the School of Law in the University Structure" [circa 1975]	1962-1977
C8C/47a	Financial Reports The contents of this folder were gathered from other sources	1962-1976
C8C/33	La Posada Motor Hotel at College Street Site of Law School New use for the former site of Law School since the 1930s	1966-1968
C8C/53b	Lease for 213 East Travis St. for Law School	1966-1967
C8D/113	Student Law Projects	1969-1976
C8D/92	Katherine A Ryan Chair established	1971
C8D/75a	Memos Folder from the President's office	1971-1976
C8C/65	Situating the Law School in the University Structure	1975
C8C/53a	History of Law School during Raba Deanship	1949-1978

2: James N. Castleberry, Jr. 1978-1989

University President

C8D/75b	Memos This folder is from the records of the President	1978-1988
C8C/35b	Correspondence on Law School matters This folder is from the records of the President	1979-1988
<u>Law Dean's Reports</u>		
C8D/88	Dean's Reports	1979, 1980
C8D/89	Dean's Reports	1981-1984
<u>Intra-University Communications</u>		
C8C/1a	Communications 1978-1989	1978 June-1980 Dec
C8C/1b	Communications 1978-1989	1979 Dec-1980 Mar
C8C/1c	Communications 1978-1989	1980 Apr-1980 Dec
C8C/1d	Communications 1978-1989	1981 Jan-1981 Dec

C8C/1e	Communications 1978-1989 <u>ABA Accreditation Reinspection Team</u>	1982 Jan-1988Dec
C8C/5	Correspondence	[1960] 1978-1979
C8C/6a	Correspondence	1979 Apr-1980 May
C8C/6b	Correspondence	1980 Jun-1981 Sept
C8D/97	Self-Study	1979-1980
C8C/12	ABA Law School Questionnaire	1980 Fall
C8C/14	ABA Correspondence This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1980-1988
	<u>Budget Allocation Policy</u>	
C8C/20b	Budget Allocation Policy	1978-1985
C8C/21a	Budget Allocation Policy This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1980-1986
C8C/47b	Financial Reports The contents of this folder were gathered from other sources	1980-1981
	<u>Physical Plant</u>	
C8D/99	Law School Space Allocation Needs Committee	1978-1980
C8D/100	Law School Space Allocation Needs Committee From the President's Office; Final Report included	1978-1980
C8C/22	Law Library Building Committee This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1981-1984
	<u>Students</u>	
C8C/32	Code of Student Conduct	1986
C8C/39	Dean's List: Fall 1986 and Fall 1987	1986-1987
	<u>Faculty</u>	
C8D/106	Tenure Policy Deliberations	1979-1990
C8C/42b	Proposal for Evaluation of Faculty	1988
C8D/91	Retention of Non-Tenured Faculty Proposal to offer contract versus termination after five years	1988
	3: Barbara Aldave, 1989-1998	
C8C/2	Academic Standards	1997 April 30
C8C/3	Communications	1989-1997
C8C/35c	Correspondence on Law School matters The contents of this folder were gathered from several sources	1989-1998
C8C/20c	Budget Allocation Policy	1990-2003
C8C/21b	Budget Allocation Policy This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1991-1997
C8D/70	Clinical Legal Education	1989-1997
C8D/112	International and Comparative Law Programs	1995-1997
C8C/25	Center for Conciliation and Arbitration For commercial dispute resolution without litigation This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1988-1996
C8C/50	Grants Received	1989-1998
C8D/83	Tenure Controversy See folder C8D/82 for press coverage of this controversy	1992
C8C/60a	"Joint Venture" A Transnational study and training program for US and Mexican Business lawyers	1992-1998

C8C/60b	Institute on International Human Rights Law	1994
C8C/60c	Highest Percentage of Mexican-American Students	1993 Oct
C8C/28	Center for Legal and Social Justice Contains proposals for structuring the program. This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1994-1998
C8C/30	Ernest W. Clemens Professorship endowed This folder was transferred from the records of the VP-Academics	1995-1996
C8C/47c	Financial Reports The contents of this folder were gathered from other sources	1996-2000
C8D/116	Report of Texas Bar Examination Committee Inquiry into high failure rate for July 1996 Texas bar exam	1997 Feb
R19F	Henry B. Gonzalez Archival Library Committee Three-ring binder with planning for the event beginning June 13, 1997 up to the event on June 25, 1998	1997-1998
R19F	H. B. Gonzalez Archival Library Fundraising Committee Minutes of each meeting from June 13 to November 7, 1997	1997

4: R. William Piatt, 1998-2007

C8D/90	Dean's Reports	1989-2003
C8C/4	Communications	1999-2006
C8D/85	Dean's News These are printouts of electronic newsletters	2002
C8D/114	Academic Environment	1999-2002
<u>Advocacy Programs</u>		
C8C/27	Center for Economic and Social Rights Report Report on use of grant funding for years 1998-2000	1998-2000
C8C/10	Proposal for Advocacy Programs	1999
C8D/71	Public Interest Law Program	1999-2000
C8C/55	Immigration Clinic	1999-2001
C8C/19	Border Assistance Project, Summer 2000	2000
C8C/54	Human Rights Clinic	2000-2001
C8C/58	Clinical Programs	2000-2001
<u>Activities/</u>		
C8C/49	Henry B. Gonzalez Archival Library	1997-2001
C8C/26	Center for International Legal Studies	1999
C8C/35d	Law School sponsored events The contents of this folder were gathered from several sources	1999-2007
C8D/76	Percentage of Minority Students	2001-2003
C8C/17	Bioterrorism Conference, February 6-7, 2003	2002-2003
C8C/24	Castleberry Chair in Oil and Gas Law	2003
C8C/29	Center for Terrorism Law: Statement of Work	2003-2004
C8D/77	ABA Moot Court Competition	2004 March
C8C/37	Dedication of Law Courtroom	2007 Jan 31

5: Charles E. Cantu, 2007-2008 (Interim Dean), 2009-

Scope Note: Most records in custody from this period appear among the General Series

C8D/115	Memos	2009-2010
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Series 3: General Series, 1944-2008

Scope Note: General Series are those series of records that extend through the tenure of more than one dean.

Arrangement Note: The general series are arranged in alphabetical order by subject and then within the subject by date.

Advisory Council to the Dean, 1973-1980

C8C/9b Recommendations on budget matters 1973-1980

Alumni Foundation, 1970-1979

C8C/11a Alumni Foundation, School of Law 1970-1979

C8C/11b Alumni Foundation, School of Law 1980

C8C/11c Alumni Foundation, School of Law 1981-2000

Alumni, Law, 1983-2004

C8C/41 Distinguished Law Alumnus Award 1983-2003

C8C/52 Hispanic Law School Alumni 1995-2004

American Bar Association Accreditation, 1980

V18 Box 3 ABA Visit, Reports, Reponses 1980-1981

V18 Box 3 ABA Visit, Reports, Reponses 1981-1982

V18 Box 3 Memos to President Young 1980 Aug –Oct

V18 Box 3 Memos to VP-Academics, Langlinais 1980-1981

V18 Box 3 ABA Memos to Deans on Standards 1979-1981

American Bar Association Accreditation, 1986

V18 Box 3 ABA Self-Study 1986 April

V18 Box 3 ABA Self-Study 1986 October

V18 Box 3 ABA Site Visitation and Evaluation Report 1986

American Bar Association Accreditation, 1994

V18 Box 4 Action of Accreditation Committee 1994-1995

V18 Box 4 ABA Self-Study Report 1994

V18 Box 4 Site Evaluation Questionnaire, 1994: Part I. Answers 1994

V18 Box 4 Site Evaluation Questionnaire, 1994: Part II. Exhibits 1994

American Bar Association Standards, 1931-2000

C8C/61 ABA Standards for Legal Education 1931-1959

Brochures published by the American Bar Association

C8C/13 Memos to Deans of Approved Law Schools 1975-1977

From: James P. White, ABA Consultant on Legal Education

V18 Box 4 ABA Standards for Legal Education 1973-2000

Brochures published by the American Bar Association

Campus Minister to Law School, 1992-2007

C8C/23 Various subjects 1992-2007

This folder was constructed using records from various offices

Clinics, 1992-2001

Scope Note: The Law School clinics project included: Capital Punishment Clinic, Juvenile Justice Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, and Poverty Law Clinic

C8C/31	Reports on activities and expenditures This folder was transferred from the records of the VP-Academics	1992-2001
C8D/120	Grant request for Immigration Law Clinic/ Homelessness Project	1992 March
C8D/119	IOLTA Grant request for Immigration Law Clinic Request is to Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation (TEAJF)	1993 March

Commencements, 1961-2000

C8C/34	Commencement matters regarding Law students This folder was constructed using records from various offices	1961-2000
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Curriculum, 1960-2000

C8D/94	Course Schedules	1960, 1965, 2000
C8D/79a	Pre-Law Curriculum	1965-1984
C8D/79b	Pre-Law Curriculum	1986-2005
C8C/38	Syllabi of courses	1968-2003
C8C/40	Degree Plans	1968-1995
C8C/57	Innsbruck Program in International Law	1986-2000
R19F	Proposal Master of Law (LLM) Degree Programs	1995 August

Dean Appointments, 1977-2004

C8C/63	Honoring Dean Raba/Search for New Dean	1977-1980
C8D/96	Search Committee for Deans	1977-78, 1987-89
C8C/64	Dean Aldave/Dean Piatt Transition For related press coverage see folder C8D/82	1997-2004

Events, 1960-1995

C8C/7	Activities: Lectures, Conferences, Institutes, et cetera	1960-1995
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Law Faculty, 1927-2000

C8D/93	Law Faculty Salaries	1972-1993
C8D/72	Faculty Lists: 1927-1977 (heavily annotated) The lists are heavily annotated with handwritten notes. Includes a list of Law Librarians for the 1940s to 1960s.	1977
C8C/42a	Faculty Lists: 1927-2000	2000

Law Faculty Meetings, 1954-1999

Description Note: The series begins as the "Faculty Council" meetings and evolves into the general Law Faculty meetings. The former was a small group of two or three. For another series of these minutes ranging from 1968 to 1988 see UA 5 Vice President Academics – General Series.

C8C/43	Law Faculty Council Meeting minutes	1954-1978
C8C/44	Law Faculty Council Meeting minutes	1979-1981
C8C/45	Law Faculty Meeting minutes	1982-1987
C8C/46	Law Faculty Meeting minutes	1988-1999

Law Day, 1957-1978

C8D/109	Thomas More Award Recipients	1957-1982
C8C/48	Rosewood Gavel Award list of recipients	1958-1980
C8D/68	Law Day ceremonies	1960-1978

Law Day was an annual event sponsored by the Student Bar Association of St. Mary's that awarded the Rosewood Gavel to an honored recipient.

Law School Publications, 1968-1981

Arrangement Note: Periodicals published by the Law School or by the law students are housed with university publications. Records concerning the publications are arranged here or with student organizations.

C8D/69	St. Mary's Law Journal Report to the Faculty	1968-1996
	Preliminary to launching <i>St. Mary's Law Journal</i> in 1969	
	Ranking of Law Reviews, top 150 in US (StMU 122 nd)	
C8D/81	On the Record, contents of proposed first issue	1993
C8D/84	Publications	1961-1981
	Regarding Barrister News and StMU Law Journal	

Law Library, 1974-1986

C8D/73b	Law Library (in Raba Hall)	1974-1984
	Includes floor plan to second floor of law library in current Raba Hall	
C8D/73c	Sarita Kenedy East Law Library	1984-2005
	Dedication media coverage, subsequent operations	
C8D/74	Fundraising for Sarita Kenedy East Law Library	1981-1986
	Primarily a series of lurid media accounts of the Kenedy East fortune	

Military Recruitment at Law School, 1992-2002

C8C/15	Discrimination on Basis of Sexual-Orientation Issue	1992-2002
	This folder was constructed using records from various offices	

Press Coverage, 1937-2000

Arrangement Note: This subseries contains clippings from the general press. Original newspaper clippings found among folders are copied with the copy replacing the original in the folder and with the newspaper original removed and consolidated in a clipping file by date.

C8C/66	Consolidated newspaper clipping file	1936-2001
	Clippings consolidated from all sources	
C8D/82	Clippings Accumulated by VP Academics	1998-2000
	This folder contains facsimiles of clippings and letters about them	

Red Mass, 1952-2004

Historical Note: The "Red Mass" is so-called because the officiating clergy wear red vestments in honor of the Holy Spirit and because it was the custom for royal judges to wear red robes during the 12th century when the Red Masses began in Paris. The custom extended to Rome and to London. From London it came to the United States in 1928 at St. Andrew's Church in New York City. In San Antonio, the Red Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of San Fernando. The date selected is near the opening of the new term of the US Supreme Court.

C8D/86a	Announcements and Programs	1952-1982
C8D/86b	Announcements and Programs	1983-2003
C8D/86c	Announcements and Programs	2004-

“Soros Proposal” for Law Revitalization, 1997-2000

Historical Note: This proposal was submitted to the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation by a consortium including the City University of New York School of Law, Northeastern University School of Law, St. Mary’s University School of Law and University of Maryland School of Law. It was referred to in common parlance as the “Soros Proposal.”

C8D/118	Memo presenting “latest version of the Soros proposal” The memo presents St. Mary’s part of the proposal.	1997 Nov 5
R14F	Community Legal Resource Network Proposal Submitted to the Open Society Institute (OSI) by a consortium Of universities including St. Mary’s.	1997 November
R14F	Community Legal Resource Network PLAN	1998-2000

Students, 1940s-2008

C8C/56	Student Recruitment Brochures	1940s-2000
C8D/101	Student Enrollment and Bar Exam Passage Rates	1969-1994
C8D/109	Tuition Rates	1978-80, 1991-2001
C8C/16	Bar Exam Passage Rates	1984-2008
C8D/95	Law Scholarships	1989-2000
C8D/107	Survey of Student and Alumni Evaluations Survey sponsored by Law Alumni and Student Bar Association	undated
C8C/8	Admissions/Applications	1993-2001

Student Organizations, 1962-2008

C8D/111	Delta-Alpha-Delta Law Wives Association Reports on annual activities	1962-63 to 1964-65
C8D/110	Women’s Law Association	1970
C8D/66	Lambda Law Organization (Student) Established in 1995 to promote equality by opposing discrimination on sexual orientation. Included in this folder is the Legal Education Association for Gay and Lesbian Issues founded also in 1995. This folder likely from President’s Office.	1995-1998
C8D/78	Phi-Alpha-Delta John Nance Garner Chapter, StMU	1971
C8D/80	Pre-Law Association	1996-2008
C8D/102	Student Bar Association (SBA)	1995-1996
C8D/103	Guidelines for Student Organizations	2001-2002