

## Williams, Claudine

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on April 10, 2015.

Materials are in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.
<b>Creator:</b>	Williams, Claudine B.
<b>Title:</b>	Claudine Williams Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00094
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1963-2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10.06 Linear Feet 21 boxes and one over-sized flat file
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Claudine Williams papers cover the years 1965 through 2009. The collection includes awards, contracts, personal and business correspondence, news clippings, her work in the community, and extensive information on her hotel and gaming properties, including the Silver Slipper, Holiday Inn Hotel, Holiday Casino, and Harrah's.

### Preferred Citation

Claudine Williams Papers, 1963-2009. MS-00094. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Businesswoman and philanthropist Claudine Barbara Williams rose to prominence in Las Vegas, Nevada through hard work and dedication to the city she loved. Born on March 17, 1921 in Mansfield, Louisiana, she was raised by her mother and grandmother. When she was 15, the family moved to Dallas, Texas where Williams lied about her age to get a job in a casino nightclub operated by Benny Binion. Before she was 21, Williams bought a Houston steakhouse/casino, paid back a \$5,000 dollar loan ahead of schedule, and used her profits to launch her business empire.

She began dating a man by the name of Shelby Williams in the late 1940s and they were married on February 19, 1950. The couple moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1964 when they bought the Silver Slipper Casino on the Strip. In 1969 they sold it to Howard Hughes, using the proceeds to build the Holiday Casino across the street from Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino. When her husband died in 1977,

Williams found herself the first woman casino president and general manager in Nevada gaming history. She stepped down as chairwoman of the resort in the late 1990s while retaining the title of Director of Community Relations. On September 24, 1992, Claudine Williams was the first woman inducted into the gaming Hall of Fame.

Williams served on various boards of directors and served on the board of trustees for St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City. On a national level, in April of 1990, she was appointed a member of the Travel and Tourism Industry Advisory Council, which advises the Senate Commerce Committee on matters relating to tourism.

An endowment fund in her husband's memory was established for scholarships to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' (UNLV) College of Hotel Administration and in 1989, she personally donated funds to UNLV for its dormitory construction project. Completed in 1990, the Claudine Williams Resident Hall was dedicated in her honor. Her dedication to education and UNLV was culminated by an honorary Ph.D in 1994.

Claudine Williams passed away on May 13, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Claudine Williams papers cover the years 1965 through 2009. The collection includes awards, contracts, personal and business correspondence, news clippings, work in the community, and extensive information on her hotel and gaming properties in Las Vegas, including the Silver Slipper, Holiday Inn Hotel and Holiday Casino. An honorary PhD from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and her work with the UNLV Foundation are included in the personal papers, along with an oral history interview done by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada in 2007. The audiovisual material concentrates on Claudine's many interviews for radio and television, award events, and donation events.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized into four series:

- I. Personal papers, 1963-2009
- II. Civic and community activity papers and photographs, 1978-2000
- III. Hotel and casino property records, 1965-2005
- IV. Audiovisual materials, 1988-2006.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Joyce Moore to bring it into compliance with DACS. August 2014

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Material was donated in 2007 and 2009 as a gift of the Claudine Williams estate; accession numbers MS-2007-09 and MS-2009-19.

### Processing Note

Material was partially processed by Wendy Halford in 2010 and completed by Joyce Moore in 2014. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards and entered the data into and ArchivesSpace.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Williams, Claudine B.
- Silver Slipper Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Holiday Inn and Holiday Casino
- Riverboat Casino
- Travel and Tourism
- Casino Management

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## Collection Inventory

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### Personal papers, 1963-2009

Physical Description: 1.8 Linear Feet 5 boxes and one oversized folder

#### Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

#### Scope and Contents

Materials comprise personal papers of Las Vegas businesswoman Claudine Williams dating from 1963 to 2009, including correspondence, invitations, newspaper clippings, and photographs. There is also an oral history of Williams and remembrances of her University of Nevada, Las Vegas honorary doctorate in 1994.

Title/Description	Instances	
Awards: printed, 1973-2008	Box 01	Folder 01
Awards: images inventory photographed, 1977-2008	Box 01	Folder 02
Biographical Information, 1996-2006	Box 01	Folder 03
Brannan, Johnny and Lillie legal report, 1958	Box 01	Folder 04
Business Hall of Fame, 2003	Box 01	Folder 05
Commission on Governmental Reorganization State of Nevada, undated	Box 01	Folder 06
Correspondence, 1956-2004	Box 01	Folder 07
Event invitations, 2000-2005	Box 01	Folder 08
Event programs, 2004-2007	Box 01	Folder 09
Event programs, 2004-2007	Box 02	Folder 01

Event programs, 1999-2005	Box 02	Folder 02
Gaming Hall of Fame Dinner host committee, 2000	Box 02	Folder 03
Gambling Hall of Fame Dinner momentos, 1992-1993	Box 02	Folder 04
Gathering of Gamblers music group, undated	Box 03	Folder 01
John Voss Drilling Company, 1963	Box 03	Folder 02
Newspaper clippings, 1960-2009	Box 03	Folder 03-08
Newspaper clippings, undated	Box 04	Folder 01
Papers written by students, 1992-2004	Box 04	Folder 02
Photographs Claudine and family, undated	Box 04	Folder 03
Photographs with dignitaries, undated	Box 04	Folder 04
Photographs UNLV Commencement, 1994	Box 04	Folder 05
Political correspondence, 1988-2006	Box 04	Folder 06
President's Economic Conference, 1992	Box 04	Folder 07
Publications, 1975-2009	Box 04	Folder 08-10
School Naming Committee, 1999/2004-2005	Box 04	Folder 11
UNLV Honorary Doctorate, 1994	Box 05	Folder 01
UNLV interview with Joanne Goodwin, 2007	Box 05	Folder 02
Williams, Shelby, 1969-1973	Box 05	Folder 03
Thank you correspondence to Claudine, 1986-2005	Box 04	Folder 12
UNLV Foundation, 1985-2007	Box 04	Folder 13

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### **Civic and community activity papers and photographs, 1978-2000**

Physical Description: 1.4 Linear Feet 5 boxes

#### **Scope and Contents Note**

The material reflects the many civic and community activities of Las Vegas businesswoman Claudine Williams, including her participation with the Travel and Tourism Board and the California Nevada Super Train Board. There are also speeches, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation information, and photographs.

#### **Arrangement Note**

This material is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Boards served on list and campaign support flyers, 1978-1979	Box 06	Folder 01
California Nevada Super Train information, 1989-2000	Box 06	Folder 02-04

Inaugural Ball invitation for Ronald Reagan, 1985	Box 06	Folder 05
Inaugural Ball invitation for Bill Clinton, 1993	Box 06	Folder 06
Heritage Tourism information packet, undated	Box 07	Folder 01
Legislative briefing papers: Southern Nevada Water Facilities, 1989-1996	Box 07	Folder 02
National Judicial College papers, March 1995	Box 07	Folder 03
Nevada video lottery termination legislation papers, May 1993	Box 07	Folder 04
Overview of legislation on property assessment papers, 1993	Box 07	Folder 05
Photographs of events and dignitaries, undated	Box 07	Folder 06
President's Economic Conference registration packet, 1992	Box 08	Folder 01
Speeches for engagements, undated	Box 08	Folder 02-03
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation papers, 1980-1983	Box 08	Folder 04
Travel and Tourism Advisory Council papers, 1990-1992	Box 09-10	Folder 01-10

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### Hotel and casino property records, 1965-2005

Physical Description: 3.4 Linear Feet 7 boxes

#### Scope and Contents Note

The hotel and casino material (1965 to 2005) contains information on the Las Vegas, Nevada properties owned and/or operated by Las Vegas businesswoman Claudine Williams and her husband Shelby, including the Silver Slipper, Holiday Inn Hotel, Holiday Casino, and Harrah's. The balance of material is comprised of records about out of state properties, investment properties, and employee information.

#### Arrangement Note

The material is divided into three sub-series; a. Silver Slipper, 1961-1973, b. Holiday Inn and Holiday Casino, 1973-2005, and c. Other casinos and investment properties, 1968-2005.

### Silver Slipper casino records, 1961-1973

Physical Description: .05 Linear Feet 1 box

#### Scope and Contents Note

The Silver Slipper Casino materials contain correspondence, gaming course descriptions, profit and loss statements, accounting regulations, and newspaper clippings from the Minsky's Burlesque Show.

#### Arrangement

Material is arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Accounting regulations, 1961-1973	Box 11	Folder 01



Correspondence, 1961-1973	Box 11	Folder 02-03
Gaming courses for students, 1961-1973	Box 11	Folder 04
Profit and loss statements, 1965-1973	Box 11	Folder 06
Receipts, 1961-1969	Box 11	Folder 07
Minsky's Burlesque Show newspaper clippings, 1966	Box 11	Folder 05

### **Holiday Inn Hotel and Holiday Casino records, 1973-2005**

Physical Description: 3 Linear Feet 7 boxes

#### **Scope and Contents Note**

The Holiday Inn Hotel and Holiday Casino records contain contracts, log books, photographs, legal papers, signage and parking agreements, and purchase agreements for both properties. There are also menus, "Fun Book" requests, and employee secret surveys.

#### **Arrangement**

Material is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Billboards and outdoor signs information, 1973-1976	Box 12	Folder 01
Capital Expenditure Request: Holiday Casino, 1985	Box 12	Folder 02
Carnival Connection Newsletter, 1998-2005	Box 12	Folder 03
Casino log book: Holiday Casino, 1974	Box 12	Folder 04
Centel PBX information, 1977	Box 12	Folder 05
Correspondence praising Williams, 1977-1978	Box 12	Folder 06
Correspondence: incoming, 1973-1986	Box 12	Folder 07-10
Correspondence: incoming, 1986-1988	Box 13	Folder 01-06
Correspondence: construction of Holiday Casino, 1973-1976	Box 14	Folder 01
Donation budget and expenditures, 1988-1989	Box 14	Folder 04
Donations receipts: Holiday Casino, 1985-1988	Box 14	Folder 03
Deposition of Shelby Williams in Long v. Jansen, March 8, 1974	Box 14	Folder 02
Gathering Band: Holiday Inn, 1973	Box 15	Folder 04
Entertainment contracts, 1978-1980	Box 15	Folder 01
"Fun Books" requests, 1977-1980	Box 15	Folder 02
Heath and Company Electrical Sign Company plans, 1978-1979	Box 15	Folder 05
Houston Post Newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1976	Box 15	Folder 06
Legal papers: Holiday Inns of America, Inc. and Nob Hill Casino, 1978-1979	Box 15	Folder 07-08

Menus from Claudine's Restaurant: Holiday Casino, undated	Oversized box 22	
Parking structures: correspondence, 1978	Box 15	Folder 09
Photographic rights agreement, Guy McAfee, October 1975	Box 15	Folder 10
Photographs, undated	Box 15	Folder 11
Purchase agreement correspondence: Holiday Casino, 1979-1983	Box 15	Folder 12-13
Purchase of Holiday Casino: final agreement, 1982	Box 16	Folder 01
Purchase of Summa parking lot, 1977	Box 16	Folder 02
Sale of Holiday Inns/Valley Bank, 1979-1982	Box 16	Folder 03
Sale of 40% interest to Holiday Inns, 1975-1985	Box 16	Folder 04
Sale transaction for Holiday Casino, 1979	Box 16	Folder 05
Secret Survey: Holiday Inn, June 24-26, 1983	Box 16	Folder 06
Secret Survey: Holiday Inn, March 27-29, 1987	Box 16	Folder 07
Suggestions from employees, 1978	Box 16	Folder 08
Telephone directory: Holiday Casino, 1999	Box 16	Folder 09

### Other Casinos and Investment Property records, 1968-2005

Physical Description: 1.4 Linear Feet 4 boxes

#### Scope and Contents Note

The other casinos and investment properties include the Gold Rush Inn, Nob Hill Casino, Harrah's Hotel and Casino, and Riverboat Casino, all in Las Vegas, Nevada, Holiday Casino, Nob Hill Casino both in Reno, Nevada, and the Westward Ho, Tahoe, Nevada. Records contain financial, shareholder, and loan reports, accounting information, correspondence, salary comparisons and investments.

#### Arrangement

Material is arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Accounting Regulation Laws, April 1, 1968	Box 17	Folder 01
Bathtub Races memorabilia, 1974-1978	Box 17	Folder 02
Complaints, 1973-1983	Box 17	Folder 03
Correspondence: Harrah's, 1985-2004	Box 17	Folder 04
Economic Study of Gaming Industry, 2005	Box 17	Folder 05
Employee information, undated	Box 17	Folder 06
Gaming in Nevada Status Report, April 27, 1991	Box 17	Folder 07
Gaming licenses, 1972-1999	Box 17	Folder 08

Gaming license: Harrah's, 1983	Box 15	Folder 03
Gold Rush Inn		
Appraisal report and architectural drawings, 1981-1988	Box 18	Folder 01
Financial records, 1983-1987	Box 18	Folder 02
Accounting information, 1986-1989	Box 18	Folder 03
Sale of Nob Hill Casino, 1987	Box 18	Folder 04
Hughes and Harlow "Angels in Hell" investment, 1977	Box 19	Folder 01-02
Nob Hill gaming application, 1978	Box 19	Folder 03
Riverboat Casino		
Cash flows, December 26, 1972	Box 19	Folder 04
Financial report, 1981-1982	Box 19	Folder 05
Loan proposal, 1980	Box 19	Folder 06
Paperwork: Riverboat Casino and Holiday Casino sale agreements, 1972-1976	Box 19	Folder 07
Purchase agreement, 1979	Box 20	Folder 02
Stock purchase, December 9, 1982	Box 20	Folder 01
Sales kit, undated	Box 20	Folder 03
Salary and benefit comparison by property, November 1982	Box 20	Folder 04
Vegas Frontier Shareholder report, 1966	Box 20	Folder 05
Westward Ho Tahoe, Nevada consolidation reports, 1969	Box 20	Folder 06
Westward Ho Tahoe, Nevada lease, 1969	Box 20	Flat file 07
Holiday Casino, Reno: financial records, 1976-1979	Box 18	Folder 05

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### Audiovisual material, 1988-2006

#### Scope and Contents Note

The audiovisual materials of Las Vegas businesswoman Claudine Williams consist of CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes that contain interviews on radio and television, hotel and casino promotional advertisements, honors and awards.

#### Arrangement

The audiovisual material is in no particular order.

Title/Description	Instances
Photos of Claudine Williams and Burton Cohen, 2006	Box 21

<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 CDs	
Days of Wine and Roses, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:03:00	Box 21
Las Vegas Special part 1, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 01:35:00	Box 21
AM Bank, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:30:00	Box 21
Woman of the Year, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:01:00	Box 21
Las Vegas Special part 2, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT:01:36:00	Box 21
A Gathering of Gamblers, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
Days of Wine and Roses, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
Governor's Conference of Nevada Tourism, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
State of the District, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
48 Hours Las Vegas, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:58:00	Box 21
Boys Hope, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes TRT:00:08:00	Box 21
Nevada Week in Review, April 10, 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
Perspectives on Las Vegas: A conversation with Claudine Williams, 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
Preview '97 The Future of Las Vegas...Today!, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	Box 21
Preview '97, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 VHS tapes	Box 21
Reports on Columbia Sunrise Hospital on ABC, September 26, 1997	Box 21

<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
It's a New Beginning: Harrah's Las Vegas employee video, June 1997	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
Harrah's Las Vegas Claudine Williams Scholarship Awards Banquet, May 17, 2007	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:05:40	
A Gathering of Gaming Greats on Channel 10, March 19, 1996	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
Black and White Ball, January 1994	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
Channel 10 Interview Holiday Casino, May 4, 1982	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:30:00	
News Report, undated	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:04:00	
Channel 2 News Interview, October 1983	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:30:00	
Transrapid-International, July 7, 1988	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes TRT: 00:20:00	
Campus Connections "Episode 2", fall 2005	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs	
Harrah's and New Orleans: an unbeatable pair, undated	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
St. Jude's Ranch for Children: A Tribute to Claudine Williams, December 7, 1989	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:07:00	
National Committee on Tourism (NCOT) "Claudine Williams Tribute, December 23, 2003	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 DVDs TRT: 00:12:23	
St. Jude's Ranch for Children "The Heartbeat of Hope", undated	Box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 VHS tapes	
St. Jude's Ranch for children A Tribute to Claudine Williams, December 7, 1989	Box 21
Harrah's Las Vegas Dedication Plaque, January 14, 1998	Box 21

Physical Description: 1 VHS tapes

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