

Guide to the Claudine Williams Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Williams, Claudine B.
Title:	Claudine Williams Papers
ID:	MS-00094
Date [inclusive]:	1963-2009
Physical Description:	11.6 Linear Feet (25 boxes and three over-sized flat file)
Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical Note

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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Names and Subjects

- Silver Slipper Gambling Hall and Saloon
- Holiday Inn and Holiday Casino
- Riverboat Casino
- Travel and Tourism
- Casino Management

Collection Inventory

Personal papers, 1963-2009

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

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.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers
Awards: printed, 1973-2008	box 01
Claudine Williams awards and recognition, 1984-1999	box 01
Claudine Williams certificates of appreciation, 1982-2002	box 01
Awards: images inventory photographed, 1977-2008	box 01
Biographical Information, 1996-2006	box 01
Brannan, Johnny and Lillie legal report, 1958	box 01
Business Hall of Fame, 2003	box 01
Commission on Governmental Reorganization State of Nevada, undated	box 01
Correspondence, 1956-2004	box 01
Event invitations, 2000-2005	box 01
Event programs, 2004-2007	box 01
Event programs, 2004-2007	box 01

	box 02	
Event programs, 1999-2005	box 02	
Gaming Hall of Fame Dinner host committee, 2000	box 02	
Gambling Hall of Fame Dinner momentos, 1992-1993	box 02	
Gathering of Gamblers music group, undated	box 03	
John Voss Drilling Company, 1963	box 03	
Newspaper clippings, 1960-2009	box 03	
Newspaper clippings, undated	box 04	
Papers written by students, 1992-2004	box 04	
Photographs Claudine and family, undated	box 04	
Photographs with dignitaries, undated	box 04	
Photographs UNLV Commencement, 1994	box 04	
Political correspondence, 1988-2006	box 04	
President's Economic Conference, 1992	box 04	
Publications, 1975-2009	box 04	
School Naming Committee, 1999/2004-2005	box 04	
Thank you correspondence to Claudine, 1986-2005	box 04	
UNLV Foundation, 1985-2007	box 04	
UNLV Honorary Doctorate, 1994	box 05	
UNLV interview with Joanne Goodwin, 2007	box 05	
Williams, Shelby, 1969-1973	box 05	
Photographs of Claudine Williams, undated	box 23	
Oversized photographs and blueprint of Williams personal residence, 1990s	box 25	flat file 28
Claudine Williams UNLV graduation ephemera, metals, and jacket, 1990s	box 24	
Claudine Williams Maitre D's and Captian Association , 1981 March 01	box 25	
Claudine Williams Deans's Medal of distinction, 2008 May 01	box 25	
Framed newspaper articles and postcards about Claudine Williams and the Holiday Inn, 2000s	box 25	
Claudine Williams star registry information, 1984 December 25	box 25	

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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.

Title/Description	Containers	
Boards served on list and campaign support flyers, 1978-1979	box 06	
California Nevada Super Train information, 1989-2000	box 06	
Inaugural Ball invitation for Ronald Reagan, 1985	box 06	
Clinton Inaugural Ball materials and inaugural address, 1993	box 06	
Heritage Tourism information packet, undated	box 07	
Legislative briefing papers: Southern Nevada Water Facilities, 1989-1996	box 07	
National Judicial College papers, March 1995	box 07	
Nevada video lottery termination legislation papers, May 1993	box 07	
Overview of legislation on property assessment papers, 1993	box 07	
Photographs of events and dignitaries, undated	box 07	
President's Economic Conference registration packet, 1992	box 08	
Speeches for engagements, undated	box 08	
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation papers, 1980-1983	box 08	
Travel and Tourism Advisory Council papers, 1990-1992	box 09	
Travel and Tourism Advisory Council papers, 1990-1992	box 10	
Oversized awards from Williams civic and community engagement, 1998-1999	box 25	flat file 27

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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	Containers
Accounting regulations, 1961-1973	box 11
Correspondence, 1961-1973	box 11
Gaming courses for students, 1961-1973	box 11
Profit and loss statements, 1965-1973	box 11
Receipts, 1961-1969	box 11
Minsky's Burlesque Show newspaper clippings, 1966	box 11

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.

Title/Description	Containers
Billboards and outdoor signs information, 1973-1976	box 12
Capital Expenditure Request: Holiday Casino, 1985	box 12
Carnival Connection Newsletter, 1998-2005	box 12
Casino log book: Holiday Casino, 1974	box 12
Centel PBX information, 1977	box 12
Correspondence praising Williams, 1977-1978	box 12
Correspondence: incoming, 1973-1986	box 12
Correspondence: incoming, 1986-1988	box 13
Correspondence: construction of Holiday Casino, 1973-1976	box 14
Deposition of Shelby Williams in Long v. Jansen, 1974 March 08	box 14
Donation budget and expenditures, 1988-1989	box 14
Donations receipts: Holiday Casino, 1985-1988	box 14
Gathering Band: Holiday Inn, 1973	box 15
Entertainment contracts, 1978-1980	box 15
"Fun Books" requests, 1977-1980	box 15
Heath and Company Electrical Sign Company plans, 1978-1979	box 15
Houston Post Newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1976	box 15

Legal papers: Holiday Inns of America, Inc. and Nob Hill Casino, 1978-1979	box 15	
Menus from Claudine's Restaurant: Holiday Casino, undated	oversized box 22	
Parking structures: correspondence, 1978	box 15	
Photographic rights agreement, Guy McAfee, October 1975	box 15	
Photographs, undated	box 15	
Purchase agreement correspondence: Holiday Casino, 1979-1983	box 15	
Purchase of Holiday Casino: final agreement, 1982	box 16	
Purchase of Summa parking lot, 1977	box 16	
Sale of Holiday Inns/Valley Bank, 1979-1982	box 16	
Sale of 40% interest to Holiday Inns, 1975-1985	box 16	
Sale transaction for Holiday Casino, 1979	box 16	
Secret Survey: Holiday Inn, June 24-26, 1983	box 16	
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	Containers	
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	
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
Oversized photographs and awards relating to Claudine William's work in the casino industry, 1987-2003	flat file 26	

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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 interivews on radio and television, hotel and casino promotional advertisements, honors and awards.

Arrangement: The audiovisual material is in no particular order.

Title/Description	Containers
Photos of Claudine Williams and Burton Cohen, 2006 Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs	box 21
Days of Wine and Roses, undated	box 21

Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:03:00	
Las Vegas Special part 1, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 01:35:00	
AM Bank, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:30:00	
Woman of the Year, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:01:00	
Las Vegas Special part 2, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT:01:36:00	
A Gathering of Gamblers, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Days of Wine and Roses, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Governor's Conference of Nevada Tourism, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
State of the District, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
48 Hours Las Vegas, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:58:00	
Boys Hope, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes TRT:00:08:00	
Nevada Week in Review, April 10, 1998	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Perspectives on Las Vegas: A conversation with Claudine Williams, 1998	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Preview '97 The Future of Las Vegas...Today!, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Preview '97, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 3 VHS Tapes	
Reports on Columbia Sunrise Hospital on ABC, September 26, 1997	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
It's a New Beginning: Harrah's Las Vegas employee video, June 1997	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Harrah's Las Vegas Claudine Williams Scholarship Awards Banquet, May 17, 2007	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:05:40	
A Gathering of Gaming Greats on Channel 10, March 19, 1996	box 21

Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Black and White Ball, January 1994	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
Channel 10 Interview Holiday Casino, May 4, 1982	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:30:00	
News Report, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:04:00	
Channel 2 News Interview, October 1983	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:30:00	
Physical Description: TRT: 00:50:02 Optical Discs	
Transrapid-International, July 7, 1988	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes TRT: 00:20:00	
Physical Description: TRT: 00:50:02 Optical Discs	
Campus Connections "Episode 2", fall 2005	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs	
Harrah's and New Orleans: an unbeatable pair, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
St. Jude's Ranch for Children: A Tribute to Claudine Williams, December 7, 1989	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:07:00	
National Committee on Tourism (NCOT) "Claudine Williams Tribute, December 23, 2003	box 21
Physical Description: 1 Optical Discs TRT: 00:12:23	
St. Jude's Ranch for Children "The Heartbeat of Hope", undated	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	
St. Jude's Ranch for children A Tribute to Claudine Williams, December 7, 1989	box 21
Physical Description: TRT: 00:54:09 Optical Discs	
Harrah's Las Vegas Dedication Plaque, January 14, 1998	box 21
Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	

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