

## **Guide to the Ralph Denton Legal Papers**

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This finding aid was created by Ian M. Baldwin and Sarah Jones. This copy was published on July 20, 2021.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1s308>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Denton, Ralph, 1925-2012
<b>Title:</b>	Ralph Denton Legal Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00440
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1950 to 1993
<b>Physical Description:</b>	25.90 Cubic Feet (38 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	21.66 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1216 Digital Files (24.3 GB) JPG
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Ralph Denton Legal Papers (1950-1993) consist of case files and legal briefs of civil rights attorney Ralph Denton. The cases largely involve civil rights issues and property claims in Las Vegas, Nevada. The files include cases representing individuals as well as companies such as Henderson Telephone Company, Lephrechaun Mining Company, and the Jockey Club Casino.

### Preferred Citation

Ralph Denton Legal Papers, 1950-1993. MS-00440. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Ralph Lloyd Denton was a famed civil rights attorney in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was born in Caliente, Nevada in 1925 to a political family that had been involved in Democratic and populist campaigns since William Jennings Bryan's first presidential run in 1896. While in high school, Denton won a summer job as an elevator operator in the United States Senate building in Washington, D.C. In 1943, he graduated high school and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, where he served in World War II. After the war, Denton attended the Washington College of Law where he graduated in 1951 with a juris doctorate degree. While in law school, Denton got to know Democratic Senator for Nevada Pat McCarran, who helped him get a clerking position in Nevada with U.S. District Judge Roger T. Foley.

Upon his return to Las Vegas in 1955, Denton became more involved in Democratic politics. In 1958 he was elected as District Attorney of Esmeralda County, Nevada. He was heavily involved in John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, helping him to carry the state in the close contest against Vice President Richard Nixon. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Denton was a passionate defender of the Civil

Rights movement, and offered his legal services to help desegregate hotels and casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. He was known for his support of liberal causes, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Peace Movement during the Vietnam War. His progressive activism earned him the nickname of "the liberal conscience of Nevada." In 2008, Denton retired from practicing law and moved to Boulder City, Nevada. Although retired, he continued to offer legal advice to residents of Southern Nevada. He passed away at his home in Boulder City in 2012. The Ralph Denton Professorship was established at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Boyd School of Law in his honor.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Ralph Denton Legal Papers (1950-1993) consist of case files and legal briefs of civil rights attorney Ralph Denton. The cases largely involve civil rights issues and property claims in Las Vegas, Nevada. The files include cases representing individuals as well as companies such as Henderson Telephone Company, Lephrechaun Mining Company, and the Jockey Club Casino.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

### Publication Rights

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## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated to the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association in 2001 by Sara Denton and were transferred to UNLV Special Collections in 2001 by Dennis McBride; accession number 2001-026.

## Processing Note

Material was processed by UNLV Special Collections staff in 2001. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin wrote the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2020, Sarah Jones rehoused the collection, updated the collection description, and due to insurmountable preservation issues, digitized select materials from the collection for preservation purposes and discarded the originals.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Ralph Denton oral history interview, 2000 January 10. OH-00434. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ralph Denton oral history interview, 2007 June 05. OH-02547. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sara P. Denton oral history interview, 2015 July 13. OH-02452. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Legal Cases -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Civil rights
- Lawyers -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Biography
- Nevada -- Politics and government -- 20th century

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Aladdin Hotel: case file, 1968	box 01
Victory Uranium Corporation and Sherwin, Charles: case file, 1954 to 1958	box 01
City of Caliente and Arnoldus, Hans J.: case file, 1956 to 1958	box 01
Yee, Bing Chee: case file, 1959 to 1962	box 01
Binion, Benny: case file, 1962 to 1966	box 01
Boyd, Bill: case file, 1959 to 1962	box 01
Breedlove, Mildred: case file, 1952 to 1964 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Brown, Don: case file, 1965	box 01
Burns, Erwin regarding water rights: case file, 1963	box 01
Parker, Charles T. Construction v. R.E.E.C.O.: case file, 1964 to 1965	box 01
Chiari Brothers: case file, 1953 to 1956	box 01
Lak, Ching Hong: immigration case file, 1957	box 02
Chui, Wong Fook: immigration case file, 1958	box 02
Chung, Won Wing: immigration case file, 1964	box 02
Cinema Races: case file, 1959	box 02
Clark County Teachers Association: case file, 1966	box 02
Clark County race books: case file, 1961 to 1964	box 02
Clanebach, Incorporated: case file, 1965 to 1966	box 02
Claybaugh, H. L.: case file, 1965 to 1966	box 02
Coach and Four, Incorporated: case file, 1961	box 02
Coburn, Kenneth: case file, 1958 to 1964	box 02
Cohen, Jack: case file, 1958	box 02
Hyde Park Subdivision no. 4: case file, 1958 to 1962	box 02
Conger, Terry Lynn: case file, 1968 to 1971	box 02
Cranmer, George Levi: case file, 1962	box 03
Crockett, George and Alamo Airways, Inc. v. Harley Harmon: case file, 1966	box 03
Crystal Springs Ranch: case file, 1963 to 1964	box 03
Desert Broadcasting FCC application: case file, 1967	box 03

Desert Provision Company v. California Club: case file, 1955	box 03
Eager, Thomas and Gertrude sale of Flying Tiger Café: case file, 1958 to 1960	box 03
Dunes Jewelry Salon: case file, 1965 to 1969	box 03
Hazard, Baker: case file, 1961 to 1962	box 03
Channel 13 of Las Vegas: case file, 1967 to 1968	box 03
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Desert Broadcasting: case file, 1967 to 1969	box 03
Physical Description: 7 Files	box 04
	box 05
Elliot, Van E. v. James Johnston and Wagon Wheel Café: case file, 1959 to 1962	box 05
Enzer, Pearl H.: case file, 1954	box 05
Esmeralda County: case file, 1958 to 1960	box 05
Fair v. Fair divorce: case file, 1957 to 1958	box 05
Fehr, Joseph and Hotel Elwell: case file, 1955	box 05
Rogers-Clary West Coast Café lease: case file, 1956	box 05
Ferry-Howard lease agreement: case file, 1954	box 05
First Title and Tally Ho Inn: case file, 1965	box 05
Hantelman, Ina and Schulte, Marie Louisa working permits: case file, 1959	box 05
Haynes, C. G. and Alaska Hotel: case file, 1958 to 1960	box 05
Hazard, H. E. regarding oil and gas lease indebtedness: case file, 1958	box 05
Henderson Telephone Company: case files, 1963 to 1964	digital file 00
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Hidden Wells Ranch: case file, 1963	box 06
Hitchens-Brander-Richards: case file, 1963	box 06
Hogan Cisco Oil Deal: case file, 1954 to 1955	box 06
Joe Hornstein and El Morocco Club: case file, 1963	box 06
Ostrovsky, Ben and Mildred; Millhizer, C. R.; and Jackpot Casino: case file, 1954	box 06
Jockey Club Casino: indexes for closing documents, 1980 April 30	box 06
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Jockey Club Casino: case file, 1981	box 06
Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1977 to 1981	box 07
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Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1977 to 1981	box 08

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Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1977 to 1981	box 09
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Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1977 to 1981	box 10
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Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1977 to 1983	box 11
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Jockey Club Casino: case files, 1971 to 1983	box 12
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Julian, Joe and Sans Souci: case file, 1958 to 1970	box 12
Physical Description: 8 Files	
Karas-Bloom escrow: case file, 1950 to 1955	box 12
KLAS TV: case file, 1962 to 1963	box 12
Landis v. French: case file, 1960 to 1961	box 12
Las Vegas Sun v. Southwestern Publishing Group (Las Vegas Review-Journal): case file, 1962	box 12
Las Vegas Television, Incorporated, 1952	digital file 00
Las Vegas Valley Water District: case files, 1957	box 13
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Leprechaun Mining Company: case files, 1991 to 1993	box 13
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Leprechaun Mining Company: case files, 1989 to 1993	box 14
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Licensing Board of Clark County: case file, 1961	box 16
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Louisiana Club: case file, 1960 to 1962	box 17
Liguori, George: case file, 1966	box 17
Loveland, Dean Thomas: case file, 1954 to 1956	box 17
Julian, Dominick: case file, 1965	box 17
Fountain Blue Cosmetic Corporation: case file, 1961	

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Lums, Incorporated: case file, 1966	box 17
Maitland, E. L.: case file, 1958	box 17
Manzanita Mines, Incorporated and John E. Buckley: case file, 1955	box 17
Marianbee Land and Livestock Company: case file, 1962 to 1963	box 17
Mapes Hotel v. Sammy Davis Jr.: case file, 1962 to 1965	box 18
McCauley-Badik agreement: case file, 1958	box 18
Medlock, Homer: case file, 1952 to 1959	box 18
Miller, Bob and Commercial Center Restaurant: case file, 1962 to 1965	box 18
Morf-Schroer-Huff agreement: case file, 1954	box 18
Monfred, John: case file, 1957 to 1962	box 18
Montague, George J.: case file, 1957 to 1959	box 18
Moulin Rouge, Incorporated: case file, 1961	box 18
Nevada Resort Association: case file, 1967	digital file 00
Nevada Rock and Sand Company: case file, 1962 to 1965	box 18
Nevada Title Guaranty Company and Josephson-Piccoli: case file, 1954	box 18
Nevada TV Productions, Incorporated: case file, 1978	box 18
New El Morocco v. Las Vegas Club, Incorporated: case file, 1960	box 18
New Frontier lease agreements, trusts, lawsuits with freight lines: case files, 1955 to 1957	box 18
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Nordstrom, Ray: case files, 1982 to 1988	box 20
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Miranti, Louis v. Teldata Corp: case file, 1980 to 1985	box 21
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Nordstrom, Ray: case files, 1982 to 1988	box 22
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Sahni and deBernardis: case file, 1990 to 1992	box 23

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Anderson, Harry: case file, 1958	box 25
Orange Fixture and Supply (El Morrocco): case file, 1950	box 25
Prell, Milton and Al Garbian v. Advertising, Inc.: case file, 1970	box 25
Pincock v. Hi Ho Club: case file, 1958	box 25
Ong, Simon: case file, 1958 to 1959	box 25
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Paradise Enterprises Company, Incorporated: case file, 1954	box 25
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Grinnel Company v. Royal Nevada Hotel, Inc.: case files, 1955	box 26
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Sunland Farms, Incorporated (Marion Cannon): case file, 1955	box 31
State of Nevada, The Nature Conservancy: case file, 1967	box 32
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