



The Law Society
of Upper Canada

Barreau du
Haut-Canada

FINDING AID FOR

Abraham Lieff fonds

PF103

Summary

The "Abraham Lieff fonds" Fonds contains:

0 Subgroups or Sous-fonds

3 Series

0 Sub-series

0 Sub-sub-series

6 Files

0 File parts

1 Items

0 Components

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Abraham Liefv fonds. -- 1963, 1968-1970, 1976-1985. -- 11 cm of textual records

Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History

Abraham Herman Liefv was born on March 21st, 1903, in Antopol, Russia (now Poland), to Barnett (sometimes referred to as Bernard) and Esther Malka Pomerantz. Liefv arrived in Canada with his mother in 1904 and settled in Ottawa in 1905. He married Sadie Lazarovitz, of Quebec City, in 1929, who was one of the first Jewish women lawyers in Canada. They had two daughters, Miriam and Lois. Liefv was admitted to Osgoode Hall Law School in 1921 and was called to the Bar in 1926. He was appointed a King's Counsel in 1948. He acted as counsel for the Canadian House of Commons Committee on Industrial Relations (1946) and for the Canadian Senate Special Committee on Narcotic Drug Traffic (1956). Liefv was the first person of Jewish faith to serve as Justice of the High Court of Justice (1963-1978). Liefv served as President of the Ottawa B'nai B'rith (1943), President of the Agudath Israel Congregation (1946-1963), President of the Ottawa Jewish Community Council (1953-1955), President of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir (1953-1956), and Chair of the Canadian Committee of the North American Section of the Commission on the Re-organization of the World Zionist Organization with Mr. Justice Harry Batshaw, of the Quebec Superior Court (1965-1966). Liefv founded the Ottawa Talmud Torah, West-End Branch (1943) and incorporated the Canada-Israel Foundation (1965). He was honoured at the Negev Testimonial Dinner of Jewish National Fund of Canada (1978) and at a centennial party at Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto (March 2003). Liefv died in Toronto on February 12th, 2007, at the age of 103.

Scope and Content

Fonds consist of records documenting the judicial career of Abraham Liefv. Records in the fonds predominately document work related to instituting pre-trial conferences and mediation programmes as an alternative court room. Fonds also documents Liefv's appointment to and retirement from the bench and research conducted for the writing of legal historical texts. Records include consultation papers, meeting minutes, correspondence, speeches, reports, memoranda, meeting minutes, and newspaper clippings.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Arrangement

Fonds is arranged in the order received.

Title Notes

Title based on content of the fonds.

PF103-1 Clippings, speeches and letter. -- 1963, 1968-1970, 1978. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of clippings, speeches and a letter relating to the judicial career of Abraham Lief.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Arrangement

Series is arranged in original order.

Title Notes

Title based on content of series.

991027-001 Clippings, speeches and letter. -- 1963, 1968-1970, 1978. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File contains newspaper clippings documenting the judicial career and personal interests of Abraham Lief, including his appointment, biographical profiles, comments on the divorce process, and his retirement. The file also contains speeches presented by Chief Justice Howland, Chief Justice Evans, and Lief, and a letter from the Attorney General of Canada requesting Lief to use "Honourable" before his name.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the file.

PF103-2 Supreme Court of Ontario files. -- 1974-1985. -- 8 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of records maintained by Justice Lief while serving on the Supreme Court of Ontario. Records relate to the institution and administration of a family law mediation programme to serve as an alternative to courtroom litigation.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Arrangement

Series is arranged in original order.

Title Notes

Title based on content of series.

991027-002 Custody mediation. -- 1976-1977. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of records relating to various projects where mediation was proposed as an alternative to litigation in family law cases. The projects were operated by the Family Court Clinic (Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, Toronto) and Family Mediation Association (Atlanta, Georgia). Records appear to have been accumulated for use as background material.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

991027-003 Mediation. -- 1976-1985. -- 2.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of records relating to the operation of Family Mediation Service of Ontario, an agency established in Family Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1982. File documents requests for government funding, an application for charitable status, correspondence regarding individual cases, meetings of directors, support from Ontario Legal Aid Plan, preparation of workshops and a Bar Admission Course programme, financial statements and budget proposals, and pamphlets announcing the service. File also documents some background information in defining the difference between pre-trial conferences and mediation, and speeches and articles written on mediation and the Family Law Act.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

991027-004 Family law. -- 1976-1977, 1980. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of records documenting the possible implementation of a Family Law Division within the High Court, and various issues such as the backlog in family cases, the amount of time taken in uncontested divorces, whether judges should be appointed permanently or semi-permanently to mediation proceedings or whether Masters should be appointed, whether pre-trial conferences should be mandatory or voluntary, and on-going consideration of numbers of cases in the courts and in pre-trial conferences to chart the backlog of cases. File also documents the recommendations and considerations of the Divorce Jurisdictional Committee composed of judges, Family Law Section of Canadian Bar Association, a sub-committee of Advocates' Society concerning the High Court, and a Civil Procedure Revision Committee.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on content of file.

991027-005 Background materials. -- 1974, 1976-1977. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of reports and papers, copies of legislation, and some related correspondence. Included are: "Discussion draft: rules made under the Unified Family Court Act, 1976" (1977), "Extracts from a proposal to the Government of Canada for a Unified Family Court Project at Hamilton, Ontario" (undated), two versions of Bill 189: An Act to establish the Unified Family Court (1976), an extract from a report on family law, Federal Law Reform Commission (1976), and a report on the Hamilton Family Court Conciliation Project (1974).

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the file.

991027-006 Pre-trial of family law in the Supreme Court of Ontario: simplify and expedite. -- Sept. 1976. -- 1 v.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title taken from cover of the item.

PF103-3 County of Carleton Law Association research materials. -- Photocopied [198-?] (originals created 1914-1939). -- 2.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of records accumulated and used by Abraham Lief. These records pertain to the County of Carleton Law Association and were used by Lief in preparation of his historical essay, "Between the Wars: 1920-1935," which appeared in William C.V. Johnson's *The First Century: The County of Carleton Law Association* (1988). The records in this series consist of photocopies of association minutes.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the series.

987007-001 Carleton County Law Association minutes. -- Photocopied [198-?] (originals created 1914-1939). -
- 2.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of photocopies of minutes from annual and other meetings of the County of Carleton Law Association, held between January 1914 and January 1939. The file also includes a copy of the Law Society of Upper Canada's "Rules relating to county libraries", published in 1929.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the file.