

Circuit Court Case Files

Collection Summary

Title: Circuit Court Case Files 1802-1959

Summary: A collection of case files from the First, Second, and Third Circuit Courts of Davidson County, ranging between 1802 and 1959.

Physical Description: 13 boxes, 5.01 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: S15-22, S15-23

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:

The official history of the Circuit Court for Davidson County dates back to when the court was duly organized on March 12, 1810, with Thomas Stuart as its first judge. However, we have records that date back to 1802, which indicate that some cases were heard in a circuit court within Davidson County before this official beginning of the First Circuit Court. This early history of the court is fragmentary, but the case files that survive give a glimpse into what types of cases and with what frequency they might have been heard. This court deals with civil cases, including small claims, divorce, alimony, personal injury, and contract disputes. The case load of the First Circuit Court increased greatly, to the point that it was necessary for the legislature to establish the Second Circuit Court on February 6, 1895, with Claude Waller as its first judge. By 1913, once again with the growth of population in the county, the legislature appointed George N. Tillman as the first judge of the Third Circuit Court.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Circuit Court Case files contain approximately 742 individual cases heard in the First, Second, or Third Circuit Courts of Davidson County. Case files include official court documents, memoranda, correspondence, or invoices used in court proceedings for respective cases. Court and legal documents include depositions, divorce records, petitions, financial claims, and property claims. Records span from 1802 to 1959.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Circuit Courts

Davidson County (Tenn.)

Davidson County (Tenn.). History

Davidson County (Tenn.) – Politics and government

Nashville (Tenn.)

Nashville (Tenn.) – Politics and government

Legal issues

Related Collections:

Davidson County Circuit Court minute books

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into three series, including the First, Second, and Third Circuit Court files. Series are arranged alphabetically by plaintiff's last name.

The *First Circuit Court* series ranges from 1802-1959.

The *Second Circuit Court* series ranges from 1910-1931.

The *Third Circuit Court* series ranges from 1915-1928.

Contents Listing

First Circuit Court

Box 1: A-Be

Box 2: Bi-Cou

Box 3: Cox-F

Box 4: G-Hor

Box 5: Hou-Ma

Box 6: Mc-Pe

Box 7: Ph-Sm

Box 8: Sn-U

Box 9: W-Z

Second Circuit Court

Box 10: A-M

Box 11: P-Z

Third Circuit Court

Box 12: A-P

Box 13: R-Z

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

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Provenance: Davidson County Circuit Court

Processing Information: Processed by Marina Troxel, November 2019

Accruals: No further accruals expected.