

718
Tom Stagg Papers
1940-2015



Archives and Special Collections
Louisiana State University in Shreveport

Biographical Sketch

Thomas Eaton Stagg, Jr. was born on January 19, 1923 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Thomas E. Stagg, Sr. and the former Beulah Meyer. He graduated from C.E. Byrd High School in 1939, attended Marion Military Institute in Alabama, and graduated from LSU with a Bachelor of Arts. He served in the U.S. Infantry during World War II in Both France and Germany during which time he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. He briefly attended Cambridge University Law School in England. Following his discharge he married Margaret O'Brien and attended LSU Law School where he received his Juris Doctor in 1949.

Stagg began his legal career at the firm of Hargrove, Guyton, Van Hook and Hargrove. He was a solo practitioner from 1953-1958 and thereafter became the senior partner with Stagg, Cady, Johnson and Haygood and he successor firm of Stagg, Cady and Beard. While maintaining a thriving legal practice, he was very active in business and civic affairs both locally and nationally. Tom was involved in the Jaycees, the Saint John's Parents Club and the Shreveport Airport Authority. He was an active Republican at every level from the precinct on up. He was a delegate to five Republican National Conventions and served as national Committeeman as well as chairman on several of the committees. In 1968 he ran unsuccessfully for the Louisiana State Senate and in 1972 he was the Republican nominee for state attorney general but was defeated by Democrat William Guste. In 1973 Stagg was an elected delegate to the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention.

Tom Stagg was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in 1974. He served as chief judge from 1984 to 1991 and assumed senior status in 1992. He continued as an active jurist for the remainder of his life. His personal feeling was that ‘this was the best job a guy could have.’ Stagg enjoyed traveling, morning jaunts with his walking group, Monday night badminton games and photography.

After Congress appropriated the funds to build a new federal courthouse Judge Stagg oversaw the planning and construction. He was there every day until its completion. It came in under budget, and ahead of schedule. In 2017 the U.S. Court House was named in honor of Judge Tom Stagg who was so instrumental in its design and construction.

Known for his legal acumen, dry humor and his bow ties, Stagg trained dozens of attorneys and future judges as his law clerks and setting a high bar for his peers. He died in 2015 at the age of 92.

Scope and Content

The Judge Tom Stagg Papers are comprised of mainly two parts. There are the personal speeches (1966-2011) which illustrate his humor and character, while letters to and from him (1960s-1990s) and newspaper clippings show in what high regard his peers and others held him (1960-1999). The second part are the actual cases where he was the presiding judge. Those are separated into bench trials, jury trials, civil and criminal and death penalty cases. The one box of photographs are both personal and professional.

Personal

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	NC. death of Tom Stagg	May 2015
1	2	Obituary, articles, letters of praise	1987-2009; 2015
1	3	(copy) death certificate of Mrs. T.E. Stagg (mother of Tom)	May 2, 1939
1	4-5	Speeches from	1966-1970
1	6	Resources for speeches	1961; u.d
1	7	Award from NCCJ speech	1987
1	8	T. Stagg's political speeches	
1	9	Senior Judge Retirement Seminars: Tom Stagg after Dinner remarks (6 samples)	1997-2005
1	10	Speeches for the Naturalization Ceremony	2005; 2012
1	11	Speeches /remarks in memoriam: Barton, James Mandy-1994 Burt, Earl Daniel-2003 Burton, Cleveland Cunningham 2008 Despot, George J. 1991 Hayes, Thomas M. 1995 Jeter, Robert McLean 1995 Looney, Frank J. 1968 Ramsey, Cecil 2009 Rubin, Alvin 1991 Van Hook, James A. 2003	
2	12	Speeches	u.d.
2	13	Speech at Norman Kinsey's 90 th birthday also Kinsey's obituary and funeral program	2011

Newspaper clippings

2	14	Harney Bogan Jr. hosts dinner; Group of GOP in Washing for Nixon's Inauguration; judicial Profile; editorials Metal printing plates	1967; 2009
2	15	Delegate to national GOP convention	1960-1969-1972
2	16	Political races: State Attorney General, Louisiana State Senate	1971-1972
2	17	Shreveport Airport Authority-chairman	1971-1973
2	18	Louisiana Constitutional Convention	1973
2	19	ABA material for Stagg's appointment to Federal District Judge	1973-1974
3	20-23	Nomination, confirmation, induction to District Court Judge for Shreveport Division of Western District of LA; Congratulatory letters, cards	1974
3	24	Swearing-in; seminar booklet	1974
3	25	Building Federal Courthouse	1974, 1995
3	26	Freedom of press	1979; 1982
3	27	Chief Judge/Senior judge	1991

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|-------------|
| 4 | 28 | Awards | 1987-2004 |
| 4 | 29 | 10, 15, 20, 25, 30,40 years on the bench-1984, 1989, 1994, 2004, 2014 | |
| 4 | 30 | General News clips Stagg mentioned: 1940s (BYRD, LSU) 1959, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s | |
| 4 | 31 | Various court rulings-Stagg's cases | 1970s-1980s |
| 4 | 32 | General Politics | 1960; 1999 |

Correspondence

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|-------------|
| 4 | 33 | General miscellaneous including:
Barry Goldwater
J. Bennett Johnston
L. Calhoun Allen, Jr.
Joe D. Waggonner, Jr.
Bob Dole
Edwin Edwards
Clyde Fant
Warren Berger
Richard Nixon | 1960s-1970s |
| | 34 | Swearing-In Ceremony and letters from attendees | 1974 |

4	35	Correspondence including from Warren Burger Richard Nixon	1980s
4	36	Buddy Roemer Hazel Beard J. Bennett Johnston George Bush	1990s
4	37	Letter to Newsweek Magazine To: President Lyndon B. Johnson re: sending Federal voting registrar to Caddo Parish	1964 1967
4	38	Letter to Sen. Charles E. Grassley re: cost efficiencies in Judicial system	1996
4	39	Reel to reel tape of the 1974 swearing-in of Judge Tom Stagg as Federal Judge	
4	40	Booklets, brochures of GOP Conventions	1962-1963; 1972

Photographs

BOX	Folder	Description	Date
5	41	Tom Stagg	u.d.
5	42	Tom Stagg and Others	u.d.
5	43	Tom Stagg in professional settings-	1964; 1972
5	44	Tom Stagg with politicians and Religious leaders: Ike Eisenhower,	

Barry Goldwater, Bishop Michael Duca,
 Ronald Reagan, Edwin Edwards, Gov. John
 McKeithen, Richard Nixon, Bishop William
 Friend, Stephen Breyer and Antonin Scalia.

5	45	Groups	1969, 1982, u.d.
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Professional

Bench Trials

6	46	Versa Clarke, et al. v. South Central Bell Re: Discrimination	1975
6	47	John C. Krepak v. USA Re: swine flu inoculation injuries	1978 1978
6	48-49	Robert Todd v. USA Re: swine flu inoculation	1979
7	50	Bossier City Medical Suite v. City of Bossier Re: abortion clinic	1979
7	51	Verdiacee H.Goston v. Edwin Edwards Re: voting rights denied	1976
7	52-53	J.C. Trahan v. First National Bank Ruston Re: stock shares	1979
8	54	Olson Construction Co. v. Morrison-Knudsen Co. Re: breach of construction contract	1979

8	55	EEOC v. Dunham Manufacturing Co. Re: discriminatory practices	1979
8	56	Arnette Poland v. Beird Poulan, Inc. Re: chain saw accident	1978
8	57	Grigsby Petroleum, Inc. v. Koch Industries, Inc. Re: money judgement-breach of promise	1982
9	58-59	Graham Brothers vs, City of Shreve port re: denied nightclub to sell until 4 a.m.	1996
9	60	Patricia Whiteside vs. William Gill Re: sex discrimination and back pay Attorney: Kim Gandy	1975-1982
9	61	KCS VS. Hanover Insurance Re: causing derailment	1983
10	62-64	EEOC vs. West Brothers Re: sex discrimination in promotions	1982-1987
10	65	Eskridge E. Smith vs. Hustler, Inc Re: bodily injury suit based on product liability	1979-1981
11	66	Lifecare Vs. Frieden Hotel Re: negligent misrepresentation (insurance)	1996
11	67	Walker Family feud vs. Walker	1984

Re: selling of stock shares

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 12 | 68-69 | Lang et.al. vs. Patridge Post Tension 1983-1984
re: infringement |
| 13 | 70-74 | Samuel Carroll, et al. V Sear, Roebuck & Co.
#77- cv-0808 1979-1881
Re: discrimination in hiring, promotions |
| 14 | 75-76 | USA v. Courtney Smith # 85-cv-2193 1985-1986
Re; abusive tax shelters |
| 14 | 77 | Kenneth Crawford v. Roadway Express 1979
78-cv-1311 re: harassment causing medical problems |
| 14 | 78 | James L. Wallace v. P&O Falco, #84-cv-3195
Re: pay discrimination |
| 14 | 79-82 | Tillman Franks vs. 20 th Century Fox 1980
Re: copyright on songs (partial) |
| 15 | 83-86 | Jessie Lee Smith vs. Vol Dooley #83-cv-0225
Re: monitary damages for violating constituton rights,
Cruel and unjust punishment ie. Deputies beat him
1983-84 |
| 15 | 87-90
1652 | John Morgan Williamson et al. vs. Vol Dooley # 80-cv-
Re: unconstitutional conditions of confinement1980-85 |

- Bench Trials with Notes only Binders on shelf

Binder: Olson Construction v. Morrison-Knudsen # 79-cv-0036

Binder: Hill v. K-Mart (no number, no date)

Binder: City of Shreveport vs. Shreve Town Corp, # 00-cv-0315
RE: expropriation of 3 parcels of land (Shreve Town Corp. by
City of Shreveport for parking garage for Convention Center
2000

Binder: Vanessa Noahubi vs. Dr. Kenneth Jones # 06-cv-2196
Re: malpractise in gastric by-pass surgery, 2006

Binder: Mitchess Kater vs. Sci-Port Discovery Center
03-cv-0868 re: terminaton in violation of ADA 2003

Binder: USA Vs. Reggie Collier, et at., #08-cv-0868
Re: race discrimination in sale of home 2008

Binder: Energy Management Corp. vs. City of Shreveport
97-cv-2408 re: mineral exploration near Cross Lake, 1997-2003

Binder: Gary Petty vs. Pat Cunningham, Auto Mart # 91-cv-0230
Re: car sale with fraudulent odometer reading 1991

Binder: Carl Roussel et al. vs Bossier City # 99-cv-1551
Re: denial of civil rights, breach of contract, constitutional
Challenges to city's sexually oriented business law. 1999

Civil Trials

Box 20 Frania Tye Lee vs. Ray Lee Hunt, 76-cv-0628
re: seeking property rights for herself and children from the
estate of H.L. Hunt, her "husband"

Box Folder

20	95	Letters from attorneys to Frania Tye Lee	1942
20	96	Letters to Judge Tom Stagg re: trial	1977-1978
20	97	Letters to Judge Tom Stagg re: trial	1982-1984
20	98	Photographs: Frania Tye Lee, 1978; the three houses In Shreveport owned by H.L. Hunt; Frania's sister Jennie	

The rest of the box contains the pleading, motions,
records of the trial of 1977-1978.

21 Continues box 20 records & has the pleadings of the
Trial of Hugh S. Hunt vs. Ray Lee Hunt C.A. 83-3100 1984

Criminal Trials

Box

22 99 USA vs. Michael Gentry, et. Al. # 87-50062-01/02
Re: carrying during drug trafficking crime 1988

22 100 USA vs Deborah Bounds, et. Al # 08-50038-01/05 1988-89
Re: Conspiring to manufacture phenyl acetone &
amphetamines.

22 101-2 USA vs. Madden Contracting Co. # 88-50039 1989
Re: bid rigging & mail fraud

22 103 USA vs. Jimmy Lee Rasco # 95-50072-01/02 1996
Re: armed bank robbery

On Shelf: USA vs. Gregory Hays # 01-50033-01 2001
Re: Bench book: conspiracy to possess and intent to
distribute cocaine

On Shelf: USA vs. Christopher Donte Evans # 11-0037 2011
Re: Bench book: conspiracy. Wire fraud, identity theft

23		<u>USA Vs Herman K. Beebe et al #85-87-50015 & #87-50015 re: 19 counts indictment, conspiracy, mis-application of funds, bank robbery, making false statements and overvaluing property</u>	1983-1984; 1985-87
23	104	Grand Jury transcript	1983
23	105	Jury Instructions and indictment	1984-1985
23		Pleadings, motions	1984
24		Pleadings (cont.)	
24	106	Newspaper clippings	1984-1985
25	107	Evidentiary Hearing	1987
25	108	List of Evidence	1987
25	109	Trial outline, jury selection	1987
25	110	Jury instructions	1987
25	111	motion to dismiss indictment	1987
26	112	Preparation	1987
26	113	Foreseeable issues	1987
26	114	Correspondence	1987
26	115	Motion to disqualify U.S. Attorney	1987
26	116	Jury questions	1987
27	117	Rulings	1987
27	118	Joe Cage incident	1987
27	119	Newspaper Clippings	1986-1987
28		Notes	

Death Penalty Cases

Alvin R. Moore, Jr. vs. Ross Maggio # 83-cv-1929

Box 29 Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana 1980
 State of Louisiana vs. Alvin R. Moore
 3 volumes of court records of 1980

Box

30	120	Synopsis	
30	121	Briefs, motions, citations for appeal	1983
30	122	Resources provided to all judges	1983
30	123	Letters to Judge Stagg, mostly negative Regarding stay of execution of Moore	1983
30	124	Notes	
30	125	Newspaper clippings	1983 -1984

Earnest Knighton vs. Ross Maggio #84-cv-0826

Box

31	126	Synopsis	
31	127	Newspaper clippings	1984
31	128	Notes	

The rest of the box are pleadings, motions

Wayne Robert Felde vs. Ross Maggio # 83-cv-2388

32	Louisiana State Supreme Court transcripts	1981
	# 1-4	
33	Louisiana State Supreme Court transcripts	
	# 5-8	
34	Louisiana State Supreme Court transcripts	
	# 9-11	

35		District Court pleadings, motions etc.	1983
35	129	Stagg's statement to press	
35	130	Letters to Stagg	
35	131	Newsclips	

School Desegregation Cases:

Beryl N. Jones et al, USA vs Caddo Parish
School Board: 11-055 (reopening and seeking
Unitary Status)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
36	132	Briefs, Motions, Pleadings	1973
36	133	Briefs	1974-1976
36	134	Briefs	1977-1979
36	135	Briefs	1980-1981
37	136	Correspondence from Attorneys, Justice Dept.	1980-1982
37	137	Reports, supporting material	1980-1981
37	138	Letters to Judge Stagg against busing, pairing	1980-1981
37	139	Briefs	1989-1990

37	140	Letters from professionals	1986
37	141	Docket	1989
37	142	Reports	1989
37	143	Consent Decree	1990
38	144	Newspaper clippings	1969
38	145	Newspaper clippings	1977
38	146	Newspaper Clippings	1978
38	147	Newspaper Clippings	1979
38	148	Newspaper Clippings	1980
38	149	Newspaper Clippings	1981
38	150	Newspaper Clippings	1984
38	151	Newspaper Clippings	1986
38	152	Newspaper Clippings	1987
38	153	Newspaper Clippings	1988-89
38	154	Newspaper Clippings	1990
38	155	Newspaper Clippings	1992

Andrews, et al. v. City of Monroe: 11-297

Taylor, et al. v. Quachita Parish School Board; 12-171

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
39	156	Civil Docket	1966-1982

39	157	Index of Orders	1969-1971
39	158	Correspondence	1971-1977
39	159	Motions	1977-1978
39	160	List of witnesses	1979
39	161	Correspondence	1975-1978
39	162	Pleadings	1977-1979
39	163	Pleadings	1980-1981
40	164	Correspondence	1980-1981
40	165	Maps	1981-1982
40	166	Desegregation plans	1980
40	167	Pleadings	1980
40	168	Desegregation plans	1980-1981
40	169	Pleadings	1981
40	170	Correspondence	1981-1983
41	171	Motions and memorandums	1982
41	172	Motion to modify plans	1981
41	173	Intervene filing	1982
41	174	Newspaper clippings	1980-1981
41	175	Ruling from the bench	1983
41	176	Maps	
42	Binder:	Bench Book for Andrews v. City of Monroe	

USA vs DeSoto Parish School Board: 12-589

43	177	Briefs, motions, pleadings	1970-1981
43	178	Briefs, motions, pleadings	1970-1981
43	179	Letters from attorneys, school boards, official entities	1976-1988

43	180	Citations from the Federal Reporter	1978
43	181	Letters from individuals to Stagg	1976-1987
43	182	Map	
43	183	Newspaper clippings	1975-1988

Other desegregation cases containing briefs, motions
letters, citations, maps and newspaper clippings

44	184	Williams vs. Madison Parish School Board	1975-1978
44	185	Yvornia DeCarol Banks vs. Claiborne Parish School Board	1981
44	186	Johnson vs. Jackson Parish School Board	1978-1987
44	187	USA vs. West Carroll Parish School Board	1973-1985
44	188	John Robertson vs. Natchitoches Parish School Board	1980
44	189	USA vs. Red River Parish School Board	1978-1979
44	190	Mitchell Williams vs. Sabine Parish School	

		Board	1976-1985
44	191	Lamarr Davis vs. Jackson Parish School Board	1972-1977
45	192-3	Copeland vs. Lincoln Parish School Board	1977-1983
		USA vs. Lincoln Parish Schools	1980-89
45	194	USA vs. Richland Parish School Board	1974-1979
46	195	Irma J. Smith et al vs. Concordia Parish	1970-1977
46	196	Blaine A. Gilbert vs. Webster Parish	1979-1984

Injunctions

47	197-201	Historic preservation of Shreveport vs. Dept of HEW #78-cv-0905 re: remodeling of U.S. Post Office for Shreve Memorial Library	1978
47	202	Albert J. Otto et al vs. Cities Services #76-0416	1976
		Re: breach of contract	

47	203	Charles Jackson vs. Sheriff Arvis Whitman #83-cv-2031 Re: Conditions at Bienville Parish Jail	1983
48		Central LA Electric vs. Dolet Hills Mining # 97-cv-0728 Re: Contract dispute	1997
On Shelf: Binder 49		KSC vs. BMW # 01-0125 Re: strike and picketing	2001
On Shelf: Binder 50		LlfeCare vs. Doctors Hospital # 05-cv-0553 Re: leasing disagreement	2005

Jury Trials

51	204	lee Arthur Perry vs. KCS # 83-cv-1316 re:damages for Personal injuries	1983
51	205	Paul M. Concienne vs. Bell Hilicoter Textron # 85-cv-1219 re: defective helicopter	1985
51	206	Jack G. Favor vs. O.E. Price et al # 74-cv-0957 Re: illegal conspiracy	1974-5
52	207	Noemi Plata Maxwell vs. State Farm Insurance # 81-cv-1713 re: wrongful death car crash	11981
52	208-9	Mary V. Winans, et al. vs. Rockwell International	

Corp., # 79-cv—0524 re: death in airplane crash 1979-81

Binder: Nash Vs. Chancellor Ray Belton of SUSLA 2003
53 # 03-cv-0812 re: wrongful termination, sexual harassment

Binder: Harley vs. Scapa # 97-cv-1978 re: age discrimination 1997
54

Opinions & Rulings

Box

55 210-213 Opinions-1974, 1975, 1976,1977

56 214-217

Handwritten list of opinions, 1974-1998

Binder of weekly court cases, May 1976-Oct. 1998

A chronological listing of 29 years of trials-1974-2003

List of Pending cases-1984-1986

On shelf: 23 Binders of Judge Tom Stagg's **Rulings:**

1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, Numbered rulings.

1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 Vols. II & III, and 1984 Vol. II,

1985, 1985 Vol. II, 1986, 1986 Vol. II, 1987, 1987 Vol. II,

1988, 1989, 1990, Index. Death Penalty cases-1983-1987.

Circuit Sitzings

Binder:	Third Circuit	3/2006
Binder:	Fifth Circuit	8/1999
Binder:	Sixth Circuit	4/2007
Binder:	Ninth Circuit	7/1997; 5/1998
Binder:	Tenth Circuit	9/2001
Binder:	Eleventh Circuit	6/2007

Box 57 oversized

Framed photographs of Presidents Nixon, Kennedy and Eisenhower. Large political sign: "Tom Stagg District 5."
11 x 14 picture of Tom Stagg receiving award –u.d. and un-identified. Envelope: political memorabilia: buttons, banner, Framed 14 x 20 cartoon by E.L. Pletcher of Times Picayune, 1971.