LARSON, JANE E.
Jane E. Larson papers, 1979-2010

Emory University
Emory Law Archives
Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library
1301 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-0059

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Larson, Jane E.
Title: Jane E. Larson papers, 1979-2010
Call Number: Series No. 040
Extent: 5.46 linear ft. (13 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of Jane Larson include correspondence, book and article manuscripts, and subject files.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply. Selected correspondence is restricted in Series 2.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Related Materials in This Repository
Martha Fineman Papers, L-014; Feminism and Legal Theory Project Records, L-015.

Source
Gift, 2012

Custodial History
Transferred to the Emory Law Archives from Professor Larson’s office at the University of Wisconsin by Katherine Franke and Janlori Goldman.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Jane E. Larson Papers, Emory Law Archives, Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library, Emory University.
Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jane Elizabeth Larson, professor of law and writer, was born on September 4, 1958 in Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Macalester College in 1980 with a B.A. in history. She earned a J.D. in 1985 at the University of Minnesota, where she graduated magna cum laude and was admitted to the Order of the Coif. After she finished law school, she clerked for The Honorable Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, and then for The Honorable Theodore McMillian of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Between 1987 and 1990 Larson worked as an associate attorney at Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy in Washington, D.C. She joined the faculty of the Northwestern University Law School in 1990. As a young scholar she quickly became known for significant contributions to feminist jurisprudence. Her work focused on the interaction of choice, consent, individualism, and sexual autonomy. An award-winning teacher, she taught courses in property, conflicts of law, feminist legal theory, and women’s legal history.

Larson moved to the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1996. She continued to write on matters of feminism and the law, producing a major work, Hard Bargains: The Politics of Sex, in 1999. This book, co-authored with Linda Hirshman, earned both enthusiastic praise and trenchant criticism. During this period Larson also did extensive research on unregulated land markets in Texas, and she worked closely with the University of Wisconsin’s Land Tenure Center. She was appointed William Voss-Bascom Professor in 2003.

Jane Larson died in 2011.

Scope and Content Note
The Jane E. Larson papers include correspondence, book and article manuscripts, and subject files. The bulk of the collection is made up of material related to Larson’s writings and speaking engagements. Her activities as a scholar, teacher, and public intellectual are well documented.

Arrangement Note
Organized into seven series: (1) Biographical material, (2) Correspondence, (3) Writings, (4) Northwestern University, (5) University of Wisconsin, (6) Colonias Study, and (7) Subject files.
Description of Series

Series 2: Correspondence, 1989-2010
Series 3: Writings, 1989-2004
Series 4: Northwestern University, 1989-1997
Series 5: University of Wisconsin, 1996-2007
Series 6: Colonias Study, 1998-2004
Series 7: Subject Files, 1990-2000
Series 1  
Biographical Material, 1979-1998  
Box 1

Scope and Content Note  
This series consists primarily of materials from Larson’s early life, including a curriculum vitae, undergraduate course papers, law school papers and transcripts, and a photographic portrait.

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Series 2
Correspondence, 1989-2010
Boxes 2, 14

Scope and Content Note
This series contains primarily letters Larson received, with a few copies of outgoing letters, on various topics. Two letters are restricted. Correspondents include family, friends, and colleagues. Most of the letters mention Larson’s scholarly pursuits. There is one file that consists only of recommendations that Larson wrote for students and colleagues.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in chronological order.

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Series 3  
Writings, 1989-2004  
Boxes 3-7

Scope and Content Note
Over the course of her career, Larson wrote many articles, gave many lectures and conference presentations, and produced one book. The files in this series contain material related to these writings. Drafts of published work and texts of lectures are present in many of the files. The bulk of the material in this series relates to Larson’s book *Hard Bargains: The Politics of Sex* (1999), which she co-wrote with Professor Linda Hirshman. The Hard Bargains files include correspondence with Hirshman, correspondence with readers, responses to reviews, and communications with the publisher on various aspects of the publication process.

Arrangement Note
Arranged alphabetically by title of work.

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<td>“A House Divided: Using Dred Scott to Teach Conflicts of Law,” 1996</td>
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<td>“A Victim All the Way to the Bank,” with Linda Hirshman, 1993</td>
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<td>“Abortion Access is America’s Tradition,” 1995-2004</td>
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<td>“Class, Economics, and Social Rights,” 2002</td>
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<td>“‘Even a Worm Will Turn at Last’: Rape Reform in Late Nineteenth Century America,” 1996-2002</td>
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<td>“Female Virtue and Public Order,” 1996</td>
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<td>“Feminism in Relation,” 2002</td>
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<td><em>Hard Bargains: The Politics of Sex</em>: cover illustration, 1997-1998</td>
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<td>“Historians and the Legal Process,” 1996</td>
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<td>“How Far Have We Come?” 2003</td>
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“Imagine Her Satisfaction: The Transformative Task of Feminist Tort Doctrine,” 1993
“Informality, Inequality, and Illegality,” 2000-2001
“Law, Politics, and the Supreme Court,” 1991
Memorandum on federal asbestos compensation program, 1989
“Oklahoma City, the First Amendment, and the Bottom Line,” 1995
“Perspectives on Professionalism,” 1995
Presentation at Women’s Legal Studies Institute, 1994
Presentation at the International Association for the Study of Common Property, 2002
“Prostitution, Work, and Human Rights,” 2001
Ragsdale amicus brief, 1989
Remarks at Communitarian Summit, 1999
Remarks at conference honoring Martha Fineman, 2003
Remarks at Northwestern University student orientation, 1993-1995
Remarks on Clinton impeachment, 1998
Remarks on Feminist Jurisprudence: Taking Women Seriously, 1994
Remarks on Take Your Daughters to Work Day, 1995-1998
Response to George Will, 1989
“Sex in Public,” 1998-2001
“Sexual Labor,” in Directions in Sexual Harrassment Law, 2001-2002
“Sexual Labor,” presented to Yale Sexual Harrassment Symposium, 1998
“Sexual Labor,” presented to University of Minnesota Faculty Workshop, 1999
“Sexual Labor,” presented to Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 1999
“Sexuality as a Language of Citizenship,” 1995
Speech honoring Dean Robert Bennett, 1995
Speech to Federalist Society conference, 1991
Speech to Feminists for Social Change, 1990
“The Adversary Use of History: Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, Inc.,” 1990
“The Ultimate Glass Ceiling,” 1994
“Things Don’t Turn Out Exactly as You Would Have Thought,” 1998
“Time to Think Again: Gender Bias in Legal Education,” 1995-1998
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<td>Tribute to Judge Theodore McMillian</td>
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<td>“Two Faces of Freedom,”</td>
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<td>“What’s Law Got to Do With It?”</td>
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<td>“Women and Property: Jane Austen’s <em>Pride and Prejudice,</em>”</td>
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<td>“Women Lawyers: Progress is Not Parity,”</td>
<td>2002</td>
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Series 4
Northwestern University, 1989-1997
Box 8

Scope and Content Note
The files in this series relate to Larson’s position at Northwestern University School of Law. Her time at Northwestern was marked by controversy, as she and several other female faculty members were denied tenure. These events were reported in the national media, and led to Larson’s decision to join the law faculty of the University of Wisconsin in 1996. Larson retained few records of the tenure process; most of the material that relates to her problems at Northwestern is in her tenure file in Series 5. However, there are two files in this series related to women faculty who were considered for tenure. Those women were Linda Hirshman, who collaborated with Larson on several scholarly projects, and Maria Hylton.

Arrangement Note
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Series 5
University of Wisconsin, 1996-2007
Boxes 9-10

Scope and Content Note
This series contains material from Larson’s time at the University of Wisconsin. She joined the Wisconsin law faculty in 1996, and remained there until her death in 2011. Included here are records of committee work, activities promoting feminism and feminist approaches to law, fellowships, and her tenure file. The tenure file contains correspondence between Larson and members of the Wisconsin faculty, some of which refers to Larson’s tenure review at Northwestern.

Arrangement Note
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Series 6
Colonias Study, 1998-2004
Boxes 11-12

Scope and Content Note
Starting in the mid-1990s, Larson researched and wrote about unregulated land markets in Texas called “colonias.” Colonias are not governed by any zoning regulations, building codes, or planning laws; they lack basic services such as clean water, sewers, and housing with safe wiring and plumbing. Larson wrote several articles on the colonias and participated in a Ford Foundation study that helped colonia residents gain clear and legal title to their homes. She also supervised law students who worked on the colonias project through the University of Wisconsin’s Land Tenure Center.

The documents in this series constitute a record of Larson’s involvement with the colonias. The bulk of the material consists of correspondence between Larson and colleagues who worked on the Ford Foundation project. Copies of interviews with colonia residents are also present.

Arrangement Note
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Series 7
Subject Files, 1990-2000
Box 13

Scope and Content Note
This series consists mostly of research material on particular topics. Some correspondence and notes are filed here.

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