HAMES, MARGIE PITTS
Margie Pitts Hames papers, 1969-1993

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hames, Margie Pitts
Title: Margie Pitts Hames papers, 1969-1993
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 825
Extent: 98.75 linear ft. (100 boxes)
Abstract: The personal and professional papers of Atlanta lawyer Margie Pitts Hames. Subjects covered include abortion rights, women’s rights, school desegregation, employment discrimination, workers compensation, personal injury, social security claims, domestic relations, criminal defense, medical malpractice, defense, educational rights for gifted and disabled children, and general civil litigation.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Special restrictions apply: Series 2 is closed due to privacy considerations.

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Source
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Margie Pitts Hames papers, 1969-1993

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Margie Pitts Hames papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Anne Thomason, Manuscript Assistant

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Margie Pitts Hames practiced law in Atlanta from 1962, until her death in 1994. Born in Milton, Tennessee in 1933, Hames graduated with honors from Kittrell High School in 1951. After receiving her B.S. at Middle Tennessee State University, Hames attended Vanderbilt University School of Law where she received her J.D. in 1961. After graduation she worked with Fisher and Phillips in Atlanta on labor-management relations. After the birth of her children, Adam and Donia, she left the firm in 1968 and the following year began volunteer work for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a Ford Foundation project that worked to prevent confrontations between civil rights demonstrators and police. She opened her own firm in 1971. Hames actively engaged in cases involving abortion rights, women’s rights, school desegregation, employment discrimination, workers compensation, personal injury, social security claims, domestic relations, criminal defense, medical malpractice, defense, educational rights for gifted and disabled children, and general civil litigation. Hames served as a legal counsel for several major Atlanta abortion clinics including Atlanta Surgi Center, Hillcrest Clinic, Summit Medical Center, Midtown Hospital, and the Atlanta Center for Reproductive Health. She argued Doe v. Bolton before the United States Supreme Court that helped make abortion legal in the United States. Other important cases included Drummond v. Fulton County Department of Family and Children’s Services, in which she defended the right of a white couple to adopt a multi-racial child; Sinyard v. Foote and Davies which integrated women into previously all male job classifications; Leonard v. City of Columbus in which she represented a group of Afro-American police officers attempting to establish an Afro-American Patrolman’s League; and Comstock v. Eastern Airlines in which Hames assisted with a class action suit involving employment discrimination. Hames participated in many civic activities in Atlanta including the Southern Coalition for Educational Equity; Planned Parenthood; American Civil Liberties Union; Rape Crisis Task Force; Leadership Atlanta; the Individual Rights Section of the State Bar; Women Trial Lawyers Organization; Georgia Association of Women Lawyers; and the Georgia Commission of the International Year of the Child.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of Margie Pitts Hames from 1969-1993. The papers consist of subject files and legal case files. The subject files contain extensive research on legal issues linked to Margie Pitts Hames’s major cases, information on her professional life, personal information, and material from her unsuccessful campaign for Georgia Supreme Court Justice in 1982. The series also contains material from Cynthia McKinney’s campaign for the House of Representatives in 1992-1993, miscellaneous correspondence, and many materials dealing with the American Civil Liberties Union.
The case files include primarily legal documents, depositions, transcripts, correspondence, notes, and evidence. The files provide much information on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission cases, abortion clinics, civil rights in Atlanta, and family law. Several lawyers received their start in the legal profession by working for Hames and are well represented in the collection, including Alice Bonner, Blenna Stone, Mary Oakley, Barbara Bethune, and Timothy Wolfe.

**Arrangement Note**
Organized into two series: (1) Subject files and (2) Case files.
Description of Series

Series 1: Subject Files
Series 2: Case files
Series 1
Subject Files
Boxes 1 - 13

Scope and Content Note
The series contains subject files that primarily contain extensive research on legal issues linked to Hames’s major cases. Of particular interest is the material on abortion rights and efforts to pass pro-choice legislation in Georgia. The subject files also contain information on her professional life including materials from Hames’s unsuccessful campaign for Georgia Supreme Court Justice in 1982, the Atlanta Bar Association, the Individual Rights Section of the Georgia State Bar that Hames help found, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Personal files includes correspondence concerning her divorce from Atlanta lawyer William Hames and some legal material concerning a coalition of Buckhead residents fighting the construction of a large complex on Peachtree Road near the Hames home. The series also includes material from Cynthia McKinney’s campaign for the House of Representatives in 1992-1993.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Abortion cases, Doe v. Bolton; Mitchum v. Foster; Roe v. Wade (reprint of appeal); Danforth</td>
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Abortion cases, research for possible medical malpractice suit, Anne Wright, 1987

Abortion medical studies and statistics, annual prenatal morality report, Grady/Emory study 1969

Abortion in Savannah

Abortion in Savannah: Medical Clinic legal documents

Abortion legislation

Abortion legislation, particularly juvenile consent

Abortion legislation in Georgia, 1991 drafts

Abortion lobbying

Abortion reference materials

Affirmative Action

Afro-American Patrolman's League

American Civil Liberties Union

Arbitration: miscellaneous materials on labor arbitration

Association of Immigration and Nationality Lawyers of Georgia: by-laws

Atlanta Bar Association

Atlanta Urban Corps

Atlanta Working Women: press releases, notes

Atlanta 2000: Learning Task Force information, 1975

Attorney's Fees

Autism: miscellaneous printed materials and court cases

Autism: notes and memoranda

Bell, Griffin

Busing: printed materials

Capital punishment

Capital punishment

Cases transferred from Hames's office: correspondence and briefs

Child abuse and neglect: research

Church and State

Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title VII

Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title VII: Litigation Fund

Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX

Civil Rights, Educational amendments of 1972

Civil Rights actions, 42 U.S.C. 1983

Civil Rights Advisory Committee, State Bar of Georgia: information regarding committee on which Hames served [ca. 14 Jul 1980]

Class Actions

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Commission on the Status of Women
Community and Human Development Department: brochures and publications, 1977-1978
Consolidated Tax Services Corporation: incorporation documents
Consumer Credit Cost Disclosure, Truth in Lending:
Consumer Representation: federal register, 26 Nov 1975
Contempt
Correspondence, 1985
Correspondence, 1986
Correspondence, 1982-
Correspondence, interoffice memos
Correspondence, 1980's
Court Procedure, 1972
Death Penalty
Deviant Behavior
Divorce
Documents tendered: miscellaneous notes and correspondence
Drug Fund
Drugs, miscellany
Drug Research
Elections
Employment Discrimination
Employment Discrimination, federal complaint process
Employment Discrimination, federal regulation of employment discrimination
Employment Discrimination, Southern Regional Council
Employment, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Fair Labor Standards Act
First Amendment cases
Foster Care and Adoption, miscellany
Freedom of Information Act
Gay Rights
Georgia Abortion Rights Action League
Georgia Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
Georgia Association of Women Lawyers
Georgia Bar Association
Georgia State Bar, civil rights
Georgia State Bar, individual rights
Gordon, Helen v. Federal Highway Administration, case 80-119
Gosselin, Kathy, writing samples and resume
Governmental Secrecy
Hames correspondence, 1979-1980
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>7</td>
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11  15  Political Races
11  16  Privacy, miscellaneous
11  17  Privacy Report, American Civil Liberties Union
11  18  Property Rights
11  19  Prostitution
11  20  Publications
11  21  Rape Bill, 1975
11  22  Rape laws
11  23  Rape, miscellaneous
11  24  Rape Task Force
11  25  Recusal
11  26  Rights, Handicapped
11  27  Rights, Poor
12  1  Rights, Students in school
12  3  School Case, fund-raising
12  4  Search and Seizure
12  5  Secretarial applicants
12  6  Sex discrimination
12  7  Southern Coalition for Educational Equity
12  8  Southern Coalition Report on Jail and Prison, 1976
12  9  Sovereign Immunity
12  10  The Spartan Woman
12  11  Speaking Engagements, 1980
12  12  Supreme Court
12  13-14  Test Tube babies and artificial insemination
12  15  Test Validation
12  16  United Way
12  17  Wald, Sarah
12  18  Women's Action Alliance
12  19  Women, credit
12  20  Women, education
12  21  Women in the Labor Force
13  1  Women and the Law
13  2  Women and Litigation
13  3  Women in the Media
13  4  Women, miscellaneous
13  5  Women's Rights Miscellaneous
13  6-8  Women's Rights, Equal Rights Amendment
13  9  Women's Rights, Equal Rights Fund: correspondence and funding proposals, 1977; code of regulations of women's Law fund and articles of incorporation
13  10  Women’s’ Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union
13  11  Workmen's Compensation
13  12  Vanderbilt University, alumni association materials
13  15  Younger Lawyers Section, State Bar of Georgia
13  16  Young Women's Christian Association
13  17  Young Women's Christian Association, finance committee
Series 2  
Case files  
Boxes 14 - 100

Scope and Content Note
The legal case files provide much information on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission cases, abortion clinics, civil rights in Atlanta, and family law. Some of the more interesting and prominent cases include Doe v. Bolton, Drummond v. Fulton County Department of Family and Children’s Services, Sinyard v. Foote, Leonard v. City of Columbus, and Comstock v. Eastern Airlines. Many of the smaller and lesser-known cases also have valuable information, particularly those involving employment discrimination. As Hames served as legal counsel for several Equal Rights Amendment abortion clinics, many cases involved defending the clinics against malpractice charges. Case files normally include legal documents, depositions, transcripts, correspondence, notes, and evidence. Several Equal Rights Amendment lawyers received their start in the legal profession by working for Hames and are well represented in the collection, including Alice Bonner; Glenna Stone; Mary Oakley; Barbara Bethune; and Timothy Wolfe. The files are arranged by case file number as organized by Hames’s law office. The case number is placed in parentheses at the end of each folder description. The cases are in chronological order with the last name of the client first. In some very brief cases, the first name and date are not known.

Restrictions on access
Special restrictions apply: Series 2 is closed due to privacy considerations.