

Collection #
M 0874

JUDGE S. HUGH DILLIN PAPERS, 1962–2001

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Processed by

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May 2006

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 21 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION
DATES: 1962–2001

PROVENANCE: U.S. District Court for the Southern District, Indianapolis, IN,
May 2006

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: BV2631; R1399

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0243

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Hugh Dillin was born in Petersburg, Pike County, Indiana on 9 June 1914. His parents were Samuel E. Dillin and Maude Harrell Dillin. Educated at Indiana University, Dillin received a degree in government in 1936, and a law degree in 1938. He then went into private practice with his father in Petersburg. Dillin married Mary Eloise Humphreys in 1940 and the couple had two daughters, Diane and Patricia.

In 1936, Dillin was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. Re-elected twice, he remained there until 1941. During 1942–1943, he served as secretary of the Public Service Commission of Indiana, until the advent of World War II. Dillin volunteered for army service from 1943–1946, earning the rank of captain. Upon returning from the war, Dillin resumed his partnership with his father and also acted as legislative advisor to Governor Henry F. Schricker.

In 1951 and 1952, Dillin served as Democratic minority floor leader in the House, and was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1959. While in the Senate in 1961, he served as majority leader and president pro tem. Dillin was also twice voted most valuable member of the State Senate by the press. On 14 September 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the federal bench, with Dillin receiving Senate confirmation on 21 September 1961. While working as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Dillin served as the circuit's district judge representative to the Judicial Conference of the United States from 1979–1982. He also served on the Executive Committee of this organization from 1980–1982. From 1982–1984 Dillin was Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. In 1983 he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States as a member of the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation.

During his career, Dillin presided over such important cases as the desegregation of Indianapolis and Evansville public schools, busing of students from the Indianapolis Public Schools to the suburbs, the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum explosion, overcrowding at the Marion County jail and the Indiana State Reformatory, and the Marble Hill nuclear power plant cancellation.

Judge Dillin assumed senior status on 31 March 1993. He retired from active trial duty in 2001. After a career covering six decades, Judge Samuel Hugh Dillin died on 13 March 2006 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the age of 91.

Sources:

“American Inns of Court” website. Available at <http://www.innsforcourt.org>. Accessed on 30 May 2006.

“Federal Judicial Center” website. Available at <http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisj>. Accessed on 30 May 2006.

McFeely, Dan and Rob Schneider. “Busing became judge’s legacy.” *The Indianapolis Star*. 15 March 2006. Available at www.indystar.com.

“United States District Court – Southern District of Indiana” website. Available at <http://www.insd.uscourts.gov>. Accessed on 30 May 2006.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The material in this collection consists of office copies of civil lawsuits presided over by Judge Dillin from 29 June 1962 to 21 August 2001. Included in these papers are memoranda, entries, and orders detailing the complaints and motions of defendants and plaintiffs; background and discussion of the cases providing a summary of the arguments; court findings and opinions; and the reasoning behind the conclusions and decisions.

This collection originally consisted of 50 large file folders. Handwritten notes on the inside of each file folder summarized the cases contained within that folder, providing information such as date, case number, case name, and action taken. The material in each of the original 50 folders has been separated into thirds and placed in folders that are labeled (1 of 3), (2 of 3), and (3 of 3). The original handwritten notes pertaining to each set of three have been kept in the folders labeled (1 of 3).

The collection runs in chronological order from one box to the next. Within the sets of three, however, the most recent material is in the first folder and the earliest material is in the third folder. This is in keeping with the original order maintained by the judge’s office. Therefore, in a set of three labeled 29 June 1962–7 Aug 1970, the first item in folder (1 of 3) will be dated 7 Aug 1970. The last item in folder (3 of 3) will be dated 29 June 1962.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0874).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

