Finding Aid for the Elizabeth Kinney Papers
NEJL.029

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April 03, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>National Equal Justice Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Kinney, Elizabeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Elizabeth Kinney Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1965-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>1.2 Linear feet (3 boxes)</td>
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<td>Language</td>
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Biographical Note

Elizabeth Kinney received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1968, where she transferred after 2 years at George Washington University Law School. In 1965, as a law school student, Kinney was selected to work for the Neighborhood Legal Services Project in Washington DC. In Washington Kinney assisted Brian Olmstead in the landmark retaliatory eviction case, Edwards v. Habib. This case argued that a tenant could not be evicted from his/her dwelling for reasons of retaliation against the tenant for reporting housing code violations.

During the summer of 1966 working with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Kinney set-up a program to train law students in neighborhood legal services; later she opened and directed a neighborhood legal services office in Cleveland.

In Ann Arbor (1970), as a Reggie, Kinney worked with the Public Housing Tenants Organization to secure an agreement with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. The agreement forced the Housing Commission to recognize the Tenants Organization and extend to them certain rights.

Around 1970, Kinney extended her Reggie Fellowship for a second year and moved to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles she was assigned to work with the Western Center on Law and Poverty; and while with the Western Center her work, again, focused on housing issues. In terms of legislation, Kinney worked on behalf of the California Housing Coalition in an attempt to create a state housing finance agency. The legislation passed through the State Assembly and Senate but was ultimately vetoed by Governor Reagan.

Kinney was involved in the case Francois v. EYOA, which argued that community representatives should be allowed to enjoin an election, electing representatives to sit on a board which allocated OEO anti-poverty funds. Kinney, on behalf of Francois, argued that the election procedure was unfair.

She was also involved in the case Moore v. Johnson, a lawsuit attempting to prevent veterans from being evicted from domiciliary facilities. In 1972 Kinney helped to establish the National Senior Citizens Law Center, whose mission was to provide legal services to the elderly.

Scope and Contents note

The primary focus of the collection is Kinney's work in the areas of housing law and reform and legal services to the elderly. Included are publications, memos, court papers, correspondence and other material related to her work with the National Tenants Organization (NTO) and the Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) in Washington, D.C.; the Cleveland Legal Aid Society; the Ann Arbor Public Tenants Organization; and the Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP) and the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) in Los Angeles.
The collection contains clippings and other documents related to the Edwards v. Habib case.

The collection contains documents related to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and its Neighborhood Legal Services Program.

Arrangement note

The papers are organized into two series: legal aid organizations, and publications.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

National Equal Justice Library

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Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Legal assistance to the poor--Housing
- Legal assistance to the poor--Ohio--Cleveland
- Legal assistance to the poor--United States
- Legal assistance to the poor--Washington (D.C.)
- Legal services--senior citizens
# Collection Inventory

## Publications 1971

| Article, "Metes and Bounds," Los Angeles Bar Bulletin, vol. 46, no. 4 |

## Legal Aid Organizations 1965-1981

**Box-folder**

1:2 - 3:6

### Scope and Contents note

This series contains Kinney's work with several legal aid organizations: The National Tenants Organization, Neighborhood Legal Services Project, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Ann Arbor Public Housing Tenants Action Organization, The Western Center on Law and Poverty, and The National Senior Citizens Law Center.

<table>
<thead>
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### Ann Arbor Public Tenants Organization 1970

1 | 3

### Legal Aid Society of Cleveland 1966-1967

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### National Senior Citizens Law Center 1972-1979

**Scope and Contents note**

This file contains reports, meeting minutes, newsletters, correspondence and other materials related to the NSCLC of which Kinney was a founding member.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>National Tenants Organization 1969-1974</td>
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**Scope and Contents note**

This file contains flyers, handouts, articles and the Tenants Outlook Newsletter.

<table>
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<td>Neighborhood Legal Services Project 1965-1966</td>
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**Scope and Contents note**

This file contains court papers and news clips related to the Nathan Habib v. Yvonne C. Edwards case. NLSP represented Edwards in the case.

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<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Center on Law and Poverty 1970-1972</td>
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<td>6-6</td>
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**Scope and Contents note**

This file contains court papers related to two cases: T.H. Francois, Sr., et al. v. Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency of Greater Los Angeles (Kinney attorney for EYOA as "Elizabeth K. Johnson"); and Isobel Moore, et al. v. Donald E. Johnson, et al. (Kinney attorney for Johnson). Also included are pleadings for other cases, housing legislation research material and news clippings.