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The Steven F. Lawson Papers

A Collection Guide

by David Shedden
November 27, 2017

Special Collections and University Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Biographical Information

Steven F. Lawson is professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University. He holds a B.A. in history from City College of New York (1966), and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in American history from Columbia University (1967, 1974). Lawson began his teaching career at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg in 1972. He moved to the USF, Tampa campus in 1978, but continued to teach courses on the St. Pete Campus through the mid-1980s. He served as chair of the USF History Department from 1983 to 1986. From 1992 to 1998 he was head of the History Department at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and professor of history at Rutgers from 1999 to 2009. He has written extensively about civil rights, particularly about voting rights for African Americans in the post-World War II period, and is the author of eight books, thirty journal articles, book chapters, and essays. His books include *Black Ballots: Voting Rights in the South, 1944-1969* (Columbia University Press, 1976), which won the Phi Alpha Theta Award for Best First Book in 1977; *In Pursuit of Power: Southern Blacks and Electoral Politics, 1965-1982* (Columbia University Press, 1985), a CHOICE Outstanding Book for 1986; *Running for Freedom: Black Politics in America since 1941* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), 4th edition; and (with Nancy A. Hewitt) *Exploring American Histories: A Survey with Sources* (Bedford-Macmillan, 2018), 3rd edition.

Lawson has been a consultant for the National Parks Service, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the award-winning documentary film series *Eyes on the Prize*. He served as managing editor and then associate editor of *Tampa Bay History* from 1979 to 1992 and as co-director of the North Carolina Politics Project at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill from 1995 to 1996. He has also been an expert witness in several court cases, including Warren v. Krivanek in 1985, Concerned Citizens of Hardee County Florida v. County Commissioners of Hardee County in 1989, U.S. v. Georgia/Brooks v. Miller in 1996, and United States of America vs. The State of North Carolina; The North Carolina State Board of Elections; and Kim W. Strach in 2013.

Provenance of the Steven F. Lawson Papers

The items in this collection fall under Record Group 365 (History Department) of the USF St. Petersburg Archives. Special Collections and University Archives, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg. The library received these materials in 2017.

Preservation Note

The documents in this collection consist of correspondence, course materials, clippings and reprints of publications. Preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of items, but to prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures.

Scope and Contents

The materials in the Steven F. Lawson Papers occupy approximately 8 linear feet of shelf space. Materials fall into one of five broad categories: **Biographical** records, documents and clippings related to University **Governance**, syllabi and materials illustrating his **Teaching**, correspondence and articles illustrating his **Scholarship**, and **General** records or correspondence. Please note that some of the correspondence classified as General may also address his teaching activities or his scholarly research.

Box #1

Plaque: USF St. Petersburg 1977

Folder: Tampa At-Large Elections

Folder: Flyer: "History Society: Ballots or Bullets"

Folder: WEL [William E. Leuchtenburg]

Folder: WEL: [William E. Leuchtenburg] Correspondence

Folder: WEL: [William E. Leuchtenburg] Correspondence

Folder: Misc./Gelfand [Mark I. Gelfand]

Folder: Correspondence: School Years 1972-1975

Folder: Correspondence: School Years 1974-1975

Folder: Correspondence: School Years 1976-1977

Folder: Correspondence: September 1977-April 1978

Folder: Correspondence: March-June 1978

Folder: Correspondence: 1978-1979

Folder: Correspondence: 1979-1980

Folder: Correspondence: 1980-1981

Folder: Correspondence: 1981-1982

Folder: Correspondence: 1982-1983

Folder: Kissinger Teach-In 1984

Folder: SHA Meeting: November 2, 1984

Folder: Correspondence: 1983-1984

Folder: Correspondence: 1984-1985

Folder: Correspondence: August - December 1985

Folder: Correspondence: January - August 1986

Box #2

Folder: Correspondence: 1986-1987

Folder: Correspondence: 1987-1988

Folder: Correspondence: 1988-1989

Folder: Correspondence: 1989-1990

Folder: Correspondence: 1990-1991

Folder: Correspondence: 1991-1992

Folder: Correspondence: 1992-1993

Box #3

Folder: Correspondence: 1993-1994

Folder: Correspondence: 1994-1995

Folder: Correspondence: 1995-1996

Folder: Correspondence: 1996-1997

Folder: Correspondence: 1997-1998

Folder: Correspondence: 1998-1999

Folder: Correspondence: 1999-2000

Folder: Correspondence: 2000-2001

Folder: Correspondence: 2001-2002

Folder: Correspondence: 2002-2003

Plaque: USF: "Most Outstanding Faculty / Staff Member
From The College Of Social and Behavioral Sciences" (no date)

Box #4

Folder: Correspondence: 2003-2004

Folder: Correspondence: 2004-2005

Folder: Correspondence: 2005-2006

Folder: Correspondence: 2006-2007

Folder: Correspondence: 2007-2008

Folder: Correspondence: 2008-2009

Folder: Correspondence: 2009-2010

Folder: Correspondence: 2010-2011

Folder: Correspondence: 2011-2012

Folder: Correspondence: 2012-2013

Folder: Photos

Box #5

Folder: Class Notes: AMH 2020: American History II

Folder: Class Notes: Development of the U.S. Since 1865

Folder: Class Notes: Overheads: U.S. History Survey

Folder: Class Notes: American Protective League

Folder: Class Notes: Survey 1865 –

Folder: Class Notes: Cold War and the 1950s

Folder: Class Notes: U.S. Since 1945 Part 1

Folder: Class Notes: U.S. Since 1945 Part 2

Folder: Class Notes: AMH 3252: U.S. Since 1945

Folder: Class Notes: AMH 3252: United States Since 1929

Folder: Class Notes: Civil Rights Seminar (Taught at USF with Darryl Paulson)

Folder: Class Notes: CRTS

Folder: Class Notes: HIS 511W: U.S. 1960s

Folder: Syllabi and Tests Duplicates

Audio Cassette: Recording of Lyndon Johnson
phone conversation with Ted Sorensen, June 3, 1963

Box #6

Folder: Rutgers Grad Courses - 1

Folder: Rutgers Grad Courses - 2

Folder: Class Notes: U.S. 1960s

Folder: Book: Black Ballots

Folder: Book: In Pursuit of Power

Folder: Book: Southern Blacks and Electoral Politics, 1965-1982

Folder: Rutgers – Miscellaneous

Folder: Oral History Interview – Virginia Durr

Folder: Oral History Interview – Wiley A. Branton

Folder: Oral History Interview – John Lewis

Folder: Oral History Interview – Maxwell Rabb

Folder: Oral History Interview – William L. Taylor

Folder: Notes about Oral History interviews

Folder: 1993 conference in Madison, Wisconsin

Folder: History and Politics

Folder: Class Notes: 1960s

Audio Cassettes: Radio Show – Civil Rights

Box #7

Folder: Sayre School

Folder: Coalition Fortress America

Folder: Activism at USF 1980s

Folder: Syllabi / Exams Survey USF

Folder: Graduation Talk – Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro – 1994

Folder: Class Notes: 1877-1920

Notebooks (seven): Graduate School – Columbia

Plaque: USF – 20 Years of Service Certificate of Appreciation (1972-1992)

Box #8

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century (Folder 1)

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century (Folder 2)

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century (Folder 3)

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Affirmative Action

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – The Abrams Case

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Sacco and Vanzetti

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Tennessee v. John Scopes

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Scottsboro Trials

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – White Primary

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Japanese Americans

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Brown v. Board of Education

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Rosenbergs Trial

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – My Lai Massacre

Folder: Famous Trials – 20th Century – Village of Skokie

Scrapbooks (five): USF St. Petersburg and USF – Tampa