

## Berman, Frederic S.; Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Frederic S. Berman Papers
<b>ID:</b>	apap229
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1962-1975
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.0 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Frederic S. Berman Papers predominantly document his service in the New York State Senate through correspondence, newspaper clippings, bills, research material and campaign literature. In addition, there are files pertaining to his post-Senatorial career as the Commissioner of the New York City Rent and Housing Department and as a New York City Criminal Court Judge.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Frederic S. Berman Papers, 1962-1975. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Berman Papers).

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## Biographical Sketch

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Frederic S. Berman was born on March 7, 1927, in New York to his parents Abraham and Rose (Baum) Berman. His father was a lawyer. He graduated from Columbia College in 1949 and received his law degree from New York Law School in 1951. Berman practiced as an attorney at the firm Berman & Berman from 1952-1964 and again from 1969-1972, specializing in business law. He also was an adjunct member of the faculty at New York Law School from 1958-2003, teaching such courses as criminal law, personal property, municipal law, and post-conviction remedies and procedures.

Berman entered public service in the 1960s. Voters from the 20th District elected him to the New York State Senate in 1964. A Democrat, he served from 1964-1966 and focused on issues of air pollution, tenants' rights, and legislative ethics. He was a member of the Corporations, Education, Finance, Motor Vehicles and Transportation and Taxation Committees. As the Commissioner of the New York City Rent and Housing Department from 1966-1969 he spearheaded efforts to slow rising rent through rent control and reform measures. He also served as a New York City Criminal Court Judge from 1973-1976 and sat on the New York State Supreme Court from 1976-1997.

Beginning in 2006, he served as adjunct professor emeritus at New York Law School and was known as an authority on law and social change.

In January 2020, Berman passed away in a nursing home at 92. He was survived by his second wife, Barbra Cohn, and children, Anthony and James Berman, from his first marriage.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection predominantly contains materials acquired by Frederic Berman during his time as a New York State Senator. Series 1, Senatorial Papers, contains campaign information as well as results from public opinion surveys. Campaign literature from Bruno Cappellini, Eleanor Clark French, John G. Heimann, Eric M. Javits, Robert Kennedy, and John V. Lindsay, and other contemporary New York politicians is found throughout the files. The Berman Papers also feature a substantial variety of newsclippings from local New York City news sources pertaining to Berman's political platforms, such as air pollution, political ethics, and rent and housing issues. Bills introduced by New York State Senator MacNeil Mitchell and background materials about Mitchell, whom Berman defeated in the 1964 State Senate election, are abundant in Berman's research files.

Series 2, Post-Senatorial Papers, contains materials from Berman's time as the Commissioner of the New York City Rent and Housing Department and includes pamphlets, bound reports, photographs, correspondence, and drafts and final publications of articles written by Berman. There are a few items from Berman's career as a New York City Criminal Court Judge, but no materials pertaining to Berman's service on the New York State Supreme Court.

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1 - Senatorial Papers, 1962-1965, Undated

## 2 Series 2 - Post-Senatorial Papers, 1963-1975, Undated

Both Series 1 and 2 are arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Laura Welch 2012

### Processing Information

Processed in 2012 by Laura Welch.

### Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

### Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

### Acquisition Information

Frederic Berman initially donated his papers to Syracuse University in a series of accessions beginning in 1966. In 2006, the papers were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Archivists transferred *Joint Legislative Committee to Study Revision of Corporation Laws, Seventh Interim Report to 1963 Session of New York State Legislature* to the book division of Special Collections. The catalog record for the monograph is now included in the University Library Catalog.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Politics and Politicians
- Air--Pollution
- Politicians--New York (State)
- Rent control--New York (State)
- Political campaigns--New York (State)--New York.
- Criminal courts--New York (State)--New York.
- Political ethics--United States.
- New York (State)--Politics and government.
- New York (N.Y.)
- Bills (legislative records)
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Files by subject
- Legislative Records
- Photographs
- Drafts (versions of documents)
- Official reports
- Fliers (printed matters)
- Press Releases
- Political posters
- Berman, Frederic S.
- Mitchell, MacNeil
- New York (State). Legislature. Senate
- New York (State). Criminal Court (Kings County, N.Y.)
- New York (City). Housing and Development Administration.

## Collection Inventory

### Senatorial Papers, 1962-1965Undated

Physical Description: 1.75 cu. ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

#### Scope and Contents

Series 1, Senatorial Papers, consists of subject files collected by Frederic Berman during his campaign for and term as a New York State Senator. The folders in this series are arranged alphabetically, according to the subjects assigned by Berman.

Title/Description	Instances	
1st, 8th and 9th Assembly Districts, 1963	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 1
1964 Session-General, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 2
1965 State Legislature, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 3
Advertising-Media, 1963-1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 4
Air Pollution, 1963-1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 5
Air Pollution-Correspondence, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 6
Air Pollution-Reports, 1964-1965Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 7
Air Pollution-Research, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 8
Article Notes and Press Releases, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 9
Berman Campaign Literature, Undated		

	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 10
Berman, F.S., 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 11
Cabinet, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 12
Cabinet Memos, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 13
Campaign Fliers, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 14
Campaign Posters, 1964Undated	Flat-File 1	
Cappellini Campaign, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 15
Captain's Party, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 16
Cards, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 17
Cards-Control, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 18
Citizen's Union, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 19
Citizen's Union, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 20
Clubs, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 21
Columbia College Citizenship Council, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 22
Correspondence, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 23
Correspondence-Citizen's Union, 1964		



	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 24
Correspondence-Democratic National Committee, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 25
Correspondence-General, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 26
Crime, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 27
Democratic Campaign Literature, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 28
Democratic Clubs, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 29
Democratic Program, 1965Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 30
Entertainment Committee, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 31
Envelopes-Control, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 32
Ethics Issue-General, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 33
Ethics-Senator Mitchell, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 34
Finance, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 35
Finance Committee Memos, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 36
Fire Island Punch Party, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 37
Frederic S. Berman-Bills, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 38
French Campaign, 1964		

	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 39
Goldwater, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 40
Graphics, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 41
Green Petition Signatures, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 42
Harriman Art Tour, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 43
Headquarters, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 44
Heimann Campaign, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 45
Highways, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 46
Housing, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 47
Javits-Clippings, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 48
Javits-Literature, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 49
Javits-Petitions, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 50
Letters 1, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 51
Letters 2, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 52
Letters-Drafts, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 53
Letters to the Editor, 1964		

	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 54
Letters-Misc, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 55
Lexington Democratic Clubs, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 56
Liberal Party, 1965	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 57
Literature-Costs, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 58
Literature-Ideas, Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 59
Literature-Other, Demo, 1962Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 60
Literature-Republican, 1964Undated	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 61
Liquor Issue, 1964	Box 1 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 62
Local Newspapers, 1964-1965	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 1
MacNeil Mitchell, 1962	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 2
MacNeil Mitchell Research Committee, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 3
Memos, 1965	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 4
Mitchell Senate Bills, 1962	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 5-7
Mitchell Senate Bills, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 8-9
Newsclippings, 1964		

	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 10
<i>New York Law Journal</i> , 1963	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 11
Official Opening, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 12
Opinion-Public, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 13
Parties, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 14
Parties Ideas, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 15
Photos, 1964-1965Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 16
Polling Places, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 17
Post Office, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 18
Press Materials, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 19
Press Releases, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 20
Press Releases and Letters to the Editor, 1965	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 21
Publicity, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 22
Radio, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 23
Radio and Television, 1965	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 24
Receiving Tickets, Undated		

	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 25
Redistricting, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 26
Research Commission, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 27
Robert Kennedy Campaign, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 28
Roll Calls-Senate, 1965Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 29
Sample letters, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 30
Schools, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 31
Senate Campaign, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 32
Speech dates, 1964Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 33
Spirit Masters, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 34
Student's Committee, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 35
Supplies, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 36
Talks, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 37
Telegrams, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 38
Telemarketing, 1964	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 39
Theaters, Undated		

	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 40
Unknown Petition Signatures, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 41
Volunteers, Undated	Box 2 (1-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 42

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## Post-Senatorial Papers, 1963-1975Undated

Physical Description: .25 cu. ft.

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

Series 2, Post-Senatorial Papers, consists of subject files that pertain to Berman's career as the Commissioner of the New York City Rent and Housing Department. The folders in this series are also arranged alphabetically according to subjects assigned to the folders by Berman. This series also features photographs and bound reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
NYC Criminal Court Decisions and Newsclippings, 1973-1975Undated	Box 2 (2-Post-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 43
NYC Criminal Court Photos, 19731975	Box 2 (2-Post-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 44
Rent and Housing Commissioner Correspondence, 1967-1969	Box 2 (2-Post-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 45
Rent and Housing Commissioner Photos, 1966-1968	Box 2 (2-Post-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 46
Rent Control, 1967-1968	Box 2 (2-Post-Senatorial Papers)	Folder 47
Rent Control Publications, 19631970Undated	Box 2 (2-Post-	Folder 48

	Senatorial Papers)	
Rent Control Reports, 1967-1968	Box 2 (2-Post- Senatorial Papers)	Folder 49
<i>Report to the Mayor on an Investigation into Rental Increases in the Non-Controlled Housing Market</i> , 1969	Box 2 (2-Post- Senatorial Papers)	Folder 50
Report: <i>People, Housing and Rent Control in New York City</i> , 1964	Box 2 (2-Post- Senatorial Papers)	Folder 51
Report: <i>The Private Rental Housing Market in New York City</i> 1965, 1966	Box 2 (2-Post- Senatorial Papers)	Folder 52
Report: <i>Rent Control in New York City</i> , 1967	Box 2 (2-Post- Senatorial Papers)	Folder 53

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