Hall, Kermit; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: Kermit Hall Papers
ID: ua902.070
Date [inclusive]: 1956-2006
Physical Description: 8.19 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.

Abstract: Personal papers of former University at Albany President Kermit Hall, who passed away suddenly in 2006.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows: Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Kermit Hall Papers, 1980-2006. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Hall Papers).

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Biographical / Historical

Kermit Lance Hall was born on August 31, 1944 in Akron, Ohio. Hall served in the Vietnam War from 1967-1969 and then earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron, a master's degree from Syracuse University in 1967, and a Ph.D from the University of Minnesota in 1972. Hall also recieved a MSL from Yale Law School in 1980. He was a recognized scholar and expert on legal history and the Supreme Court and wrote extensively on the development of federal and state courts. In 1979, as a scholar at Wayne State University, Hall published his first book, The Politics of Justice: Lower Federal Judicial Selection and the Second Party System, 1829-61.

On December 29, 2004, Hall was named the 17th president of the University at Albany, State University of New York. Prior to his appointment at Albany, Hall held academic and administrative positions at

Hall was also known for his various publications about the American law and the judicial branch. His works granted him various awards including grants from the National Endowment for Humanities, the American Bar Association, and the James Madison Award from the American Library Association. While he worked on many long term publications concerning the Supreme Court and legal history, a significant amount of his research was dedicated to The New York Times v Sullivan, a case that originated in Alabama and concerned libel and freedom of the press. Beyond the First Amendment implications, Hall's research and writings on this case explored the racial tensions and civil rights coverage in Alabama that was intertwined with the court's proceedings at the time.

In 1992, President Bill Clinton appointed Hall to the five member Assassination Records Review Board to review and approve the release of public documents related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Hall served as board member for numerous organizations relating to higher education, including the American Council on Education, the National Association of State University and Land Grant Colleges, the International Student Exchange Program, the NCAA Presidential Task Force on the Future of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York. He was formerly a member of the board of the Research Triangle Institute, one of the nation's most successful private research enterprises. Hall held fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Bar Foundation, and the Fulbright Education Foundation.

Hall died on August 13, 2006 in South Carolina and was survived by his wife Phyllis.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains Kermit Hall's personal papers.

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Scope and Contents

Includes much of the materials housed in Kermit Hall's office after his death. Includes publications, manuscripts, research files on New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, records from the Assassination Records Review Board, and speeches given while President of UAlbany.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically into four series as follows:

4: UAlbany Talks and Presentations, 2004-2006, undated

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Processing Information

This collection was processed in 2024 by Maggie Zehr.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Phyllis Hall donated materials to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 2007.
Access

Access to this collection is restricted because it is unprocessed. Portions of the collection may contain recent administrative records and/or personally identifiable information. Please contact an archivist for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- UAlbany Faculty & Alumni Papers
- Hall, Kermit L., 1944-2006
- History--Study and teaching.
- Law (discipline)
- Research (documents)
- Research Notes
- Research
- United States. Supreme Court.
- Lectures.
- News Clippings
- Manuscripts for publication
- Constitution
- Civil Rights
- Race relations
- assassinations
# Collection Inventory


**Physical Description:** 3 cubic ft.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains research material including interview transcripts, news clippings, manuscript drafts, and research articles.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

## Assassination Records Review Board, 1963-2004

**Physical Description:** 1.96 cubic ft.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains board meeting notes, research documents, nomination materials and news clippings.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

## Essays and Publications, 1983-2005

**Physical Description:** 1.4 cubic ft.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains the majority of Hall's major publications, and sometimes includes correspondences with the editor and draft revisions along with the published material.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.
### UAlbany Talks and Presentations, 2004-2006

**Physical Description**: 2.1 cubic ft.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains transcripts and information about events that Hall spoke at while President of UAlbany, including commencements, awards and recognition ceremonies, and campus community events.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

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