

# Guide to the Arthur Lazarus Papers

WA MSS S-2684



by Beinecke staff

2007-05-16

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Arthur Lazarus Jr., 1926-2019 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Business papers, 1951-1987 .....	6
Series II: Legal briefs, 1947-1996 .....	7
3: September 2013 acquisition, 1950-2011 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	10

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2684

**CREATOR:** Lazarus, Arthur

**TITLE:** Arthur Lazarus papers

**DATES:** 1947-2011

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 9.38 linear feet (23 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings and printed briefs relating to Arthur Lazarus, his activism in the area of Native American civil rights, and his legal clients. The papers document Lazarus's legal work for two prominent cases: *Tuscarora Indian Nation v. Power Authority of the State of New York*, which came before the Supreme Court in 1958, and *Montana v. Blackfeet Tribe*, which came before the Supreme Court in 1985. Other clients and cases are also documented in the briefs, correspondence and clippings.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lazarus>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lazarus>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Arthur Lazarus (Yale Law 1949), 1997, 2013.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

The Arthur Lazarus Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

## Preferred Citation

Arthur Lazarus Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

## Processing Information

Former call number: Uncat WA MS 231

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization, upon acquisition. Further description was added in 2011.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

---

## Arthur Lazarus Jr., 1926-2019

Arthur Lazarus (1926-2019) was an attorney who specialized in American Indian Law. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1949, he worked with Felix Cohen in Washington D.C. until Cohen's death in 1953. Lazarus represented American Indian tribes in their claims against State and Federal governments, including several claims before the federal Indian Claims Commission. His clients included the Blackfeet Tribe, the Menominee Tribe, the Papago Tribe, the Seneca Nation, the Sioux Nation, and the Tuscarora Nation.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings and printed briefs relating to Arthur Lazarus, his activism in the area of Native American civil rights, and his legal clients. The papers document Lazarus' legal work for two prominent cases: Tuscarora Indian Nation v. Power Authority of the State of New York, which came before the Supreme Court in 1958, and Montana v. Blackfeet Tribe, which came before the Supreme Court in 1985. Other clients and cases are also documented in the briefs, correspondence and clippings.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Business Papers, 1951-1987. II. Legal Briefs, 1947-1996. III. September 2013 Acquisition.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Business papers, 1951-1987

2.09 linear feet (5 boxes)

Business Papers consist chiefly of retained carbons of outgoing correspondence to clients and associates and newspaper clippings, documenting in particular Lazarus's work with three tribes: the Tuscarora Nation, the Blackfeet Tribe, and the Seneca Nation. Lazarus's work with other clients and cases is also documented in the correspondence and clippings.

Organized roughly by topic.

b. 1, f. 1-2	Correspondence, non-client, incoming and outgoing	1952-1968
b. 1, f. 3-5	Tuscarora	1957-1967
b. 2, f. 6-8	Blackfeet I	1951-1957
b. 2, f. 9-11	Blackfeet II	1957-1963
b. 3, f. 12-13	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act land seminar	1982-1983
b. 3, f. 14	Articles by Felix Cohen, typescripts, printed versions, and related correspondence	1952-1953
b. 3, f. 15-17	Briefs, typescripts and file copies	1954-1967
b. 4, f. 18	Newspaper clippings relating to American Indian law	1955-1958
b. 4, f. 19	American Civil Liberties Union, Indian Civil Rights Committee, minutes and correspondence	1957-1961
b. 4, f. 20-24	Newspaper clippings relating to the Tuscarora Nation	1958-1960
b. 5, f. 25	Newspaper clippings relating to the Tuscarora Nation (continued)	1959-1960
b. 5, f. 26-29	Newspaper clippings relating to the Seneca Nation and Kinzua Dam	1965-1976

**Series II: Legal briefs, 1947-1996**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Legal briefs consist of printed versions of briefs authored by Arthur Lazarus and his associates, including Felix Cohen.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 6, f. 30-36	Legal briefs	1947-1996
----------------	--------------	-----------

---

**3: September 2013 acquisition, 1950-2011***6.88 linear feet (17 boxes)*

This addition consists of correspondence, writings, printed material and legal papers, including legal briefs, documenting the legal work of Arthur Lazarus for Native American communities.

Gift of Arthur Lazarus (Yale Law 1949), 2013.

Arranged roughly in the order in which it was received.

b. 7	Memorandum AAIA	1950-1953
b. 7	Memoranda (A. L., Jr. - Personal) AAIA	1954
b. 7	A.L., Jr. AAIA	1955-1956
b. 8	AAIA	1957-1958
b. 8	Memoranda (A.L., Jr.) AAIA	1959-1960
b. 8	AAIA - F.B.A. Convention - Chicago	1960-09-17
b. 9	Legal papers (2 folders)	1998-2003
b. 9	Legal papers, writings, and correspondence	1979-1981
b. 9	"Filing: 1979/80 Yale Teaching File"	1979-1981
b. 10	Yale seminar materials	1973
b. 10	"Yale - Indian Law Seminar- Fall 1975 lectures"	1975
b. 10	"Arthur Lazarus, Jr. - Seminar (Yale - Fall, 1973)"	1973
b. 10	AL, Jr. - Yale Law School, Indian Law seminar	1977
b. 10	Yale Law School - materials	1969-1976
b. 11	Printed legal material (4 folders)	1952-2004
b. 12	Tuscarora Post correspondence	1971-1973
b. 12	AL, Jr. - Laguna correspondence	1956-1973
b. 12	Navajo correspondence	1971-1973
b. 12	AL, Jr. - Hualapai correspondence and legal papers	1952-1973
b. 13	AL, Jr. - Nez Perce correspondence and legal papers	1960-1973
b. 13	AL, Jr. - Metlakatla	1970-1972
b. 13	AL, Jr. - Oglala Sioux correspondence	1954-1973
b. 13	AL, Jr. - Salt River Pima-Maricopa correspondence	1955-1973
b. 13	Doyon correspondence	1972-1973



b. 14	Legal papers	1998-1999
b. 14	Legal correspondence	1961-1965
b. 15	AL, Jr. - AAIA (1968 missing)	1966-1970
b. 16	Legislative memoranda - (A.L., Jr.) AAIA	1958
b. 16	Legislative memoranda - (A.L., Jr.) AAIA	1959
b. 16	Printed legal material (2 folders)	1971-1997
b. 17	Title II of the 1968 Civil Rights Act: an Indian Bill of Rights	undated
b. 17	Legal material (4 folders)	1980-2007
b. 18	Legal material (4 folders)	1999-2010
b. 19	Legal material (2 folders)	2008-2011
b. 20	Correspondence	1969-1971
b. 20	Legal papers and correspondence	1998-2000
b. 20	Legal papers (4 folders)	1999-2001
b. 21	AL, Jr. - San Carlos Apache correspondence	1953-1972
b. 22	AL, Jr. - Memos and correspondence	1953-1999
b. 22	Blackfeet - McKat, Iliff (personal)	1953-1997
b. 22	"Miscellaneous Letters / Memos"	1968-1978
b. 23	Mississippi Sioux, correspondence	1971-1973
b. 23	AL, Jr. - AAIA 1/1/70	1971-1973

---

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Indians of North America -- Civil rights --  
Montana  
Indians of North America -- Civil rights -- New  
York (State)  
Indians of North America -- Government  
relations  
Indians of North America -- Legal status, laws,  
etc. -- Montana  
Indians of North America -- Legal status, laws,  
etc. -- New York (State)  
Lawyers -- Washington (D.C.)  
Siksika Indians -- Law and legislation  
Siksika Indians -- Legal status, laws, etc.  
Tuscarora Indians -- Law and legislation  
Tuscarora Indians -- Legal status, laws, etc.

### Genres / Formats

Legal documents

### Occupations

Lawyers -- Washington (D.C.)

### Names

Lazarus, Arthur

### Corporate Bodies

United States. Indian Claims Commission  
United States (ICRA)