

# Guide to the Robert P. Anderson Papers

MS 2035



compiled by Christy Tomecek

June 2016

Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2035

**CREATOR:** Anderson, Robert Palmer, 1906-1978

**TITLE:** Robert P. Anderson papers

**DATES:** 1880–2014

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 16.75 linear feet (34 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The material is in English.

**SUMMARY:** The papers document the professional and personal life of federal judge and Yale University alumnus Robert P. Anderson. The majority of the collection is comprised of personal papers, including materials from his education at Yale College and Yale Law School, documents related to his service in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, and correspondence with family, friends, and organizations. The second largest portion of the collection consists of materials from his judicial career. These are mainly from his time serving as a judge for the Connecticut Superior Court, the United States District Court, the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit and the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals. Also present are materials from government attorney positions. Finally, there is a small number of materials related to his service as a Connecticut State Senator, such as correspondence and campaign materials. Materials date from 1880 to 2014.

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

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

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert P. Anderson, Jr., 2015

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is retained by the Donor of this collection for unpublished works authored or otherwise produced by Robert P. Anderson. After the lifetime of the Donor or until July 24, 2025, whichever comes first, copyright passes to Yale University. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Robert P. Anderson Papers (MS 2035). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Robert Palmer Anderson was born on March 27, 1906 in Noank, Connecticut. He was the son of Arthur P. Anderson, a probate judge in Groton, Connecticut, and Jessie P. Ashby Anderson. He lived in Noank until he started high school at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He was admitted into Yale College and graduated in 1927 with a BA in law. He then attended Yale Law School and graduated in 1929 with a LLB in law. He practiced general law with the firm of Waller, Waller, Avery and Gallup in New London, Connecticut, becoming a partner in 1935. In 1934 he was elected Justice of the Peace in Groton, a position he served into the 1940s. In 1936 he was also appointed a United States Commissioner.

After the United States entered World War II, Anderson was commissioned in the United States Coast Guard Reserve as a Lieutenant on January 21, 1942. He served in New London, Connecticut until January 1943. After attending Officers' School in St. Augustine, Florida, he was sent to North Africa in April 1943 as a part of the Lend-Lease Administration. He then was posted in Bizerte, Tunisia as part of the Navy's 8th Amphibious Force, and in the Mediterranean and the English Channel for Flotilla #4 LCI-Ls from May 1943 to November 1943. He was then assigned to the 11th Amphibious Force that participated in the Normandy Invasion, more commonly known as D-Day, until November 1944. Afterwards, he was posted in Washington D.C. as the Chief of the Rescue Vessel and Station Division of Air Sea Rescue at Coast Guard Headquarters and led the Coast Guard reserve unit in New London, Connecticut until he retired in 1957 due to the separation of powers doctrine. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by the United States and the Order of the British Empire by the United Kingdom for his service.

Anderson began his work in politics and the state and federal court system in 1936 when he was appointed Public Defender for New London County. In 1946 he was elected to the Connecticut Senate, representing the 18th district. In 1947, he was appointed State's Attorney for New London County. He also served on the military staff Connecticut governors McConaughy, Shannon, and Lodge. He then resigned these positions when he was sworn in as a judge for the Connecticut Superior Court on August 10, 1953. These were succeeded by appointments to the United States District Court in 1954, where he became chief judge in

1960, and to the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit in 1964. He assumed senior status for the latter in 1971, but went back to active duty in 1972 when the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals was reformed to exercise judicial rule over an energy price stabilization program. Anderson worked until his death on May 2, 1978, filing his final decision the day before.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The papers document the professional and personal life of federal judge and Yale University alumnus Robert P. Anderson. The majority of the collection is comprised of personal papers, including materials from his education at Yale College and Yale Law School, documents related to his service in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, and correspondence with family, friends, and organizations. The second largest portion of the collection consists of materials from his judicial career. These are mainly from his time serving as a judge for the Connecticut Superior Court, the United States District Court, the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit and the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals. Also present are materials from government attorney positions. Finally, there is a small number of materials related to his service as a Connecticut State Senator, such as correspondence and campaign materials. Materials date from 1880 to 2014.

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## **Arrangement**

The papers are arranged in three series: I. Personal papers, 1880-2014. II. Connecticut State Senator, 1935-1963. III. Judicial career, 1940-2011.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Personal papers, 1880–2014

This series comprises materials documenting the personal information, early life, and family history of Anderson. Biographical materials cover aspects of his life from childhood to his death and include address books, diaries, obituaries and biographical sketches, passports, and religious texts. Correspondence in this series cover a diverse range of subjects. Much of it is with family and friends, but there is a significant amount that focuses on business and community affairs, such as his law practice, properties, and his work with the Marine Historical Society in Mystic, Connecticut. Materials related to his education cover all levels from primary school to post-secondary, with the bulk of materials related to Yale College and Yale Law School. Yale College materials contain coursework and Yale publications while Yale Law School materials almost entirely consist of handwritten class notes. Materials related to his military service focus on his time in the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II and mainly consists of training materials, orders and post assignments, and activities at his different posts, including New London, Connecticut, Portsmouth, England, and Bizerte, Tunisia. There is also a small number of materials related to honors and military awards received, including the Order of the British Empire from the United Kingdom. Finally, there are personal photographs and scrapbooks, mainly of newspaper articles covering events involving Anderson. Materials are from 1880 to 2014, with the bulk from 1927 to the mid-1960s.

Series I is arranged under six headings: biographical materials, correspondence, education, military service, photographs and scrapbooks, and professional associations. Within headings, materials are arranged alphabetically.

Biographical materials		
b. 1, f. 1	General	1937-1944, 1974
b. 1, f. 2-3	Address books	Undated
b. 1, f. 4	Anderson's personal history	1906–2014
b. 1, f. 5	Clippings on Anderson's family	1963–1998
b. 4b. 3, f. 1-15	Diaries	Circa 1928, 1951-1978
b. 1, f. 6-7	List of some books owned by Robert P. Anderson	1986–1987
b. 1, f. 8-9	Obituaries	1978–1979
b. 1, f. 10	Official stationaries	Undated
b. 1, f. 11	Passports	1962–1977
b. 2, f. 1	Pistol license	1971–1977
b. 2, f. 2-3	Religious materials	1913–1968
Trips		
b. 2, f. 4-6b. 5, f. 1	General	1929–1982
b. 2, f. 7	American Bar Association conference 1971, London	1970–1975
b. 6, f. 1	British products and sweets	1961–1978

## Biographical materials (continued)

b. 6, f. 2-3	Writings on local history	1935-1983
Correspondence		
b. 6, f. 4	General, incoming	1950-1974
b. 6, f. 5-6	General, outgoing	1937-1977
b. 6, f. 7	Anderson, Elizabeth	1934-1962
b. 6, f. 8	Anderson, Robert P. and Anderson, Elizabeth helping others	1957-1978
b. 6, f. 9-11	Family	1880-1976
b. 6, f. 12-13	Friends	1929-1978
b. 6, f. 14	Honors	May 1936
b. 6, f. 15	Humor	1948-1978
b. 7, f. 1	<i>Kestrel</i> /boat	1938-1959
b. 7, f. 2	Law practice	1930-2010
b. 7, f. 3	Mystic Seaport	1949-1978
b. 7, f. 4	Noank	August 15, 1949
b. 7, f. 5	Property	1935-1978
b. 7, f. 6-7	Regarding Anderson's death	1978
b. 7, f. 8	Smith, Macauley	1955
b. 7, f. 9	Tengelsen case	1972-1974
Education		
b. 7, f. 10	Noank Grammar School	Circa 1911
b. 7, f. 11	Phillips Academy	1919-1978
Yale College		
b. 7, f. 12-13	General	1923-1976
b. 7, f. 14	Calendar	1925
b. 8, f. 1	Freshman year	1923-1924
b. 5, f. 2b. 8, f. 2	History of Edwards portrait	1940-1964
b. 8, f. 3	Materials for geology course	Circa 1923-circa 1927
b. 8, f. 4-5	Materials for Latin courses	Circa 1923-circa 1927
b. 8, f. 6-7	Notes for English courses	Circa 1923-circa 1927

## Education (continued)

## Yale Law School

b. 8, f. 8-9	General	1927-1974
b. 9, f. 1	Commencement program	1929
b. 9, f. 2	Examinations	Undated
b. 9, f. 3-4	Legal publications	1925-1928
Notes		
b. 9, f. 5-7b. 10, f. 1-6	General	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 10, f. 7	Analysis of cases	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 11, f. 1-2	Connecticut constitution	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 11, f. 3	Corporations	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 11, f. 4-5	Real estate, trusts, legal process, evidence	1925-1929
b. 11, f. 6	Real property	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 11, f. 7	Torts	Circa 1927-circa 1929
b. 12, f. 1	Reunions	1964-1974
Military service		
b. 12, f. 2	Activities	1943-1944
Correspondence		
b. 12, f. 3-4	General, incoming	1942-1963
b. 12, f. 5	General, outgoing	1942-1964
b. 12, f. 6-7	Admirals Little and Nelson	1945-1977
b. 12, f. 8	Honors	1943-1969
b. 13, f. 1	<i>Navigation and Nautical Astronomy</i>	1942
b. 13, f. 2	Newspapers	1942-1996
b. 5, f. 3b. 13, f. 3b. 16, f. 2	Orders	1942-1951
Postings		
b. 13, f. 4-5	Bizerte, Tunisia	1943-1958
b. 13, f. 6b. 14, f. 1	Portsmouth, England	1943-1950



## Military service (continued)

b. 21	Stamps	Undated
b. 17b. 18b. 19b. 20b. 14, f. 2-5	Training	1940-1959
Photographs and scrapbooks		
b. 14, f. 6	General	1929-1977
b. 15, f. 1	Anderson, Robert P.	1909-circa 1969
b. 5, f. 4	Portrait of Robert P. Anderson	Circa 1971
b. 16, f. 1	Scrapbook	1959-1966
Professional associations		
American Bar Association		
b. 15, f. 2	General	1937-1948
b. 15, f. 3	Annual meeting in London, England	1957
b. 15, f. 4-5	Bar examination committee	1939-1954
b. 15, f. 6	Connecticut Prison Association	1941-1954
b. 15, f. 7	New London County Bar Association	1938-1939, 1972
b. 15, f. 8	State Bar Association of Connecticut	1939-1959

## Series II: Connecticut State Senate, 1935–1963

This series comprises materials documenting Anderson's service as a Connecticut State Senator. While there are some materials related to his legislative work with the Senate, the majority of this series consists of campaign materials and correspondence. There are also some files regarding political philosophy and political principles he found relevant. Materials cover from 1935 to 1963.

Series II is arranged alphabetically.

Correspondence		
b. 22, f. 1	Incoming	1948–1954
b. 22, f. 2	Outgoing	1948–1953
b. 22, f. 3-5	Campaign materials	1940–1963
b. 22, f. 6	Legislative procedural materials	1947
b. 22, f. 7	Legislative work	1939–1953
b. 22, f. 8	Political philosophy	1935-1940, undated
b. 22, f. 9	Political principles	1938–1960

## Series III: Judicial career, 1940–2011

This series comprises materials documenting Anderson's judgeships, both state and federal. Government attorney positions mostly contain materials related to his position as State Attorney for Connecticut, but it also includes files from his tenure as the Public Defender for New London County and serving on the Governor's military staff. Judgeships include his service on the Connecticut Superior Court, the United States District Court, the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals. Materials from the Connecticut Superior Court include jury charges, dockets, correspondence and case files. Case files mainly consist of memoranda of decisions. United States District Court files are primarily made up of case files, particularly the New Haven Railroad bankruptcy proceedings, as well as higher profile cases such as *Butterworth v. Dempsey* and *United States v. Silverman*. There are also files consisting of law clerk materials, memoranda of decisions, and Judicial Conference files. United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit materials contain files on various court issues, such as comments on Anderson's rulings and reports on extra-judicial income, as well as a full index of cases heard by Anderson and correspondence. Records related to his service on Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals are limited and include some of his draft opinions. Materials cover from 1940 to 2011, with the bulk of materials from 1940 to 1975.

Series III is arranged under two headings: government attorney positions and judgeships. Within headings, materials are arranged alphabetically.

Government attorney positions		
b. 23, f. 1	Public defender, New London County	1940–1947
State Attorney		
b. 23, f. 2	General	1947–1953
b. 23, f. 3	Connecticut Turnpike	1952–1953
b. 23, f. 4-6	Newspaper clippings	1948–1953
Governor's military staff		
b. 23, f. 7	General	1944–1956
b. 23, f. 8	Eisenhower's inauguration	1953
Judgeships		
Connecticut Superior Court		
General		
b. 23, f. 9-10	1953–1957	1953–1957
b. 24, f. 1-2	Dockets	1953–1954
Case files		
b. 24, f. 3	General memoranda of decisions	1953–1954
b. 24, f. 4	<i>Adams v. Greenwich Water Company</i>	1953
b. 24, f. 5	Correspondence	1944–1954
Jury charges		

## Judgeships &gt; Connecticut Superior Court &gt; Jury charges (continued)

b. 24, f. 6-7b. 25, f. 1	Civil charges	Undated
b. 25, f. 2-3	Civil charges, part I, revised by Comley, J.	Undated
b. 25, f. 4-5	Civil charges, part II, revised by Comley, J.	Undated
b. 25, f. 6b. 26, f. 1	Civil charges, part III, revised by Comley, J.	Undated
b. 26, f. 2-3	Civil charges, part I, revised by Maltbie, C.J.	Undated
b. 26, f. 4-5	Civil charges, part II, revised by Maltbie, C.J.	Undated
b. 26, f. 6b. 27, f. 1	Criminal charges, revised by Comley, J.	Undated
b. 27, f. 2	Criminal charges, part I, revised by Maltbie, C.J.	Undated
b. 27, f. 3	Criminal charges, part II, revised by Maltbie, C.J.	Undated
b. 27, f. 4	General principles	Undated
b. 27, f. 5	Newspapers	1946-1953
United States District Court		
b. 27, f. 6-7	General	1947-1965, 2011
Correspondence		
b. 27, f. 8b. 28, f. 1	General, incoming	1936-1977
b. 28, f. 2	General, outgoing	1954-1964
b. 28, f. 3	Anderson's review of 1953-1964	1964
b. 28, f. 4	Regarding Learned Hand	1958-1976
Case files		
b. 28, f. 5	<i>Buckley v. Hoff</i>	1963-1965
<i>Butterworth v. Dempsey</i>		
b. 28, f. 6-9	General	1963-1965
b. 28, f. 10	Comments	1964-1966
b. 29, f. 1	<i>Johnson v. Sanders</i>	1969-1970
New Haven Railroad bankruptcy		
b. 29, f. 2-3	General	1957-1980
b. 29, f. 4	Anderson's personal file	1964-1977
b. 29, f. 5	Appointment of trustees	1960-1965
b. 29, f. 6	History of the New Haven Railroad	1962
b. 29, f. 7	Investigation and report	1963

## Judgeships &gt; United States District Court &gt; Case files &gt; New Haven Railroad bankruptcy (continued)

b. 29, f. 8-9b. 30, f. 1-4	Newspaper clippings	1956-1971
b. 30, f. 5	Plans for reorganization filed by public	1961-1965
<i>United States v. Silverman</i>		
b. 30, f. 6	General	1985
b. 30, f. 7	Newspaper clippings	1955-1956
b. 30, f. 8	Government publications	1954-1965
b. 30, f. 9	Hartford Federal Courthouse	1963
b. 31, f. 1	Judicial Conference files	1955-1964
b. 31, f. 2	Law clerks	1954-1982, 2007
b. 31, f. 3-6	Memoranda of decisions	1954-1964
b. 32, f. 1	Newspaper clippings	1954-1960
b. 32, f. 2	Photographs	1962
b. 32, f. 3-4	Scrapbook This scrapbook was dismantled due to preservation concerns and its contents have been arranged in the original order in archival folders.	1961-1966
b. 32, f. 5	Stationery	Undated
United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit		
Correspondence		
b. 32, f. 6-7	General, incoming	1956-1978
b. 32, f. 8	General, outgoing	1965-1977
b. 32, f. 9	Biltmore Hotel	1971-1977
b. 33, f. 1-2b. 32, f. 10	Congratulatory messages	1964
b. 33, f. 3	Medina, Harold R.	1964-1979
Court issue files		
b. 33, f. 4	General	1955-1976
b. 33, f. 5	Comments on Anderson's rulings	1964-1976
b. 33, f. 6	Connecticut occupational tax	1972
b. 33, f. 7	Judicial conferences	1964-1977
b. 33, f. 8	Marriage ceremony	Undated
b. 33, f. 9	Public report of extra-judicial income	1969-1977

## Judgeships &gt; United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit &gt; Court issue files (continued)

b. 33, f. 10	United States courts versus English courts	1965
b. 34, f. 1-3b. 33, f. 11	Index of cases heard by Anderson	1964-1977
b. 34, f. 4-5	Newspaper clippings	1954-1974
b. 34, f. 6	Photographs	1962-1964, Undated
Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals		
b. 34, f. 7	General	1961-1972
b. 34, f. 8	Anderson's opinions	1972-1975
b. 34, f. 9	Correspondence regarding library materials	1972-1974

## **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**

Bankruptcy  
Judges  
Jurisprudence  
World War, 1939-1945

### **Names**

Anderson, Robert Palmer, 1906-1978

### **Corporate Bodies**

Connecticut. Superior Court  
United States. Court of Appeals (2nd Circuit)  
United States. District Court (Connecticut)  
Yale College (1887- )  
Yale Law School