



## University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives

### Judge Robert Morton Collection

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#### Collection Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Judge Robert Morton Collection
<b>Call Number:</b>	MS 97-01
<b>Size:</b>	4.5 linear feet
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Donated by Robert B. Morton, 1995
<b>Processed by:</b>	SKH, 8-26-1996; MN, 3-2016
<b>Note:</b>	None
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None

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#### Literary Rights

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#### Restrictions

None

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#### Content Note

The Judge Robert B. Morton collection extends from 1942 through 1970, and it includes correspondence, legislation, legal documentation, clippings, notes, memos, reports and publications. The majority of the materials in the collection concerns Morton's activities on the University of Wichita Board of Regents and as special counsel for the City of Wichita. Of particular interest in this collection are the materials concerning the integration of the University of Wichita into the Kansas state system in 1964 and the materials concerning the development of the Cheney Division Wichita Water Project. Many of the individual file descriptions include the original file name. All materials were maintained in their original file unless otherwise noted.

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#### Biography

Robert Ball Morton was born on October 26, 1912 in Webb City, Missouri to Frank Percy and Grace (Ball) Morton. Upon graduating from Wichita High School in 1930, Morton attended the University of Kansas from 1930

to 1935. In 1935, Morton was admitted to the bar and entered into general practice. Morton joined the Wichita law firm of Kidwell, Darrah, Ball & Morton and later the firm of Aley, Morton, Darrah and Mellor. During that period, he was appointed special water counsel by the city commission to represent Wichita in the litigation to obtain the water rights to the Equus beds west of Wichita and the bond issue funding for the Cheney Reservoir which assured the city of a reliable water supply. He also represented the City of Wichita in the Wichita Municipal Airport litigation with The U.S. Department of Defense who wanted to take the airport. The successful settlement of this case resulted in construction of the current Mid Continent Airport.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, Morton joined the United States Marine Corps in 1942 and served in the South Pacific for three years. He was engaged in the battles on Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions on Okinawa. Morton retired from the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Morton was appointed 18th Judicial District Judge from 1950-1951 and served as special legal counsel to the City of Wichita from 1955 to 1962.

In 1953, Morton was appointed to the University of Wichita Board of Regents and served on the board until 1964. During his tenure, Morton was instrumental in the integration of the University of Wichita, a municipal university, into the Kansas state system in 1964.

In 1962, he was appointed Judge of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court where he served until his retirement in 1986. In 1975 and 1976, he was President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. During his tenure on the bench he participated in a ten year effort to rewrite a revision to the Bankruptcy Code which was approved by Congress in 1978. Following his retirement from the court, he joined the Wichita law firm of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock and Kennedy as "of counsel."

Morton married Dorothy B. Compton on July 25, 1942, and they had one son, Robert C. Morton.

Morton enjoyed hunting, fishing, water skiing, paddle tennis and golf. He was a member of the Wichita Country Club, joining in 1938.

Morton died June 25, 2005, at the age of 92.

Source: *Wichita Eagle*

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## Detailed Description: Series Listing

<a href="#">Series 1</a>	Box 1-Box 3	University of Wichita and Wichita State University Documentation. This series contains correspondence, legislation, legal documentation, financial records, reports, memos, clippings and publications.
<a href="#">Series 1.1</a>	Box 1	Entrance into State System Materials. This series contains documentation about the University of Wichita's entrance to state system of higher education.
<a href="#">Series 1.2</a>	Box 2	Financial and Legal Materials. This series contains documentation concerning financial and legal matters of University of Wichita and Wichita State University.
<a href="#">Series 1.3</a>	Box 3	Operations and Activities Materials. This series contains documentation concerning operations and activities of University of Wichita and Wichita State University.
<a href="#">Series 2</a>	Box 4 FF 1-9	City of Wichita Documentation, 1955-1962. This series contains correspondence, legal documentation, reports, financial statements, records and publications.

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## Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

### Series 1 – University of Wichita and Wichita State University Documentation

#### Series 1.1 – Entrance into State System Materials

Box 1	FF 1	Clippings WU. Contains correspondence and newspaper clippings, 1961-62, regarding the entrance of the University of Wichita (WU) into the Kansas state system.
Box 1	FF 2	Integration of WU to State System 1961. Contains correspondence, reports, newspaper articles and personal notes concerning the entrance of WU into the Kansas state system. Also included in the files are the following: December 1960 copy of <i>AAUP Bulletin</i> ; brochure entitled "The Place and the Price of Excellence," by Jacques Barzun; Report entitled "Comprehensive Educational Survey of Kansas"; Report entitled "Message of Governor John Anderson, Jr. to the Kansas Legislature," January 1961; and report concerning the enrollment statistics for the first semester 1961-62.
Box 1	FF 3	Summary of Legislative Effort August 2, 1962. Contains a report and brochure entitled "An Act of Faith" regarding the effort to incorporate the WU into the Kansas state system. Also included in this file is WU's financial report for 1961-62 fiscal year.
Box 1	FF 4	University of Wichita. Contains reports, correspondence, memos and newspaper articles from 1963-65 regarding issues involving WU and entry to the state system. Also included in this file are the following: Copies of the Board of Regents minutes for July 1, 1963, July 17, 1963, Oct. 7, 1963, Nov. 4, 1963 and April 6, 1964; Copies of the University of Wichita Financial reports from the office of the Treasurer for Feb. 1964, Jan. 1964, Sept. 1963, Oct. 1963, Dec. 1963, Nov. 1963, Aug. 1963, June 1963, and May 1963; Copy of a Declaration of Trust between the Sedgwick's Triumph Over Polio Committee and the Fourth National Bank and Trust Company of Wichita.
Box 1	FF 5	University of Wichita Integration 1962. Reports, correspondence and memos concerning the WU's entrance into the Kansas state system and other university business and activities. Also included in this file is an unlabeled notebook containing numerous newspaper articles concerning the integration of WU into the Kansas state system.
Box 1	FF 6	Wichita State University. Contains correspondence and clippings (1964-1970) concerning Wichita State University's entrance into the state system. Also included in this file is correspondence, legal documents and clippings concerning the Colorado-Derby building and other university activities.
Box 1	FF 7	Wichita University. Contains correspondence, reports, financial statements and clippings regarding a variety of issues about WU, 1960-1962.

Box 1	FF 8	Wichita U. Entrance into State System #1. Contains 1962-64 correspondence, memos, reports, legislation and clippings concerning WU entrance into the Kansas state system. Also included in this files is a copy of the bylaws for the Citizens for a State University in Southern Kansas, Inc., copies of Kansas Senate Bill No. 151 and No. 139 and a report entitled "Eurich Report and the University of Wichita."
Box 1	FF 9	Wichita U. Entrance into State System #2. Contains 1962-63 correspondence, memos, reports, legislation, financial statements and clippings concerning WU's effort to enter the Kansas state system and other university activities. Also included in this file is the following: 1962-63 University of Wichita Graduate <i>School Bulletin</i> ; a report entitled "Kansas: Plans for the Next Generation; and a report entitled "Some Factors in the Founding of State Colleges and Universities in Kansas: An Historical Survey."
Box 1	FF 10	Contains 1961-63 reports, correspondence and publications concerning WU integration into the Kansas state system. Also included in this file is the following publications: Autumn 1961, <i>Stanford Today</i> ; <i>Kansas</i> magazine; and the "University of Wichita Bulletin Biennial Catalogue, 1961-1963."
Box 1	FF 11	Contains 1961-63 reports, correspondence, memos and clippings regarding the integration of WU into the Kansas state system. Also included in this file is an June 3, 1961 article from the Saturday Review, entitled "Renaissance in the Southwest," concerning graduate educations and a report entitled "Problems of Duplication in Higher Education."

## Series 1.2 – Financial and Legal Materials

Box 2	FF 1	Municipal University Fund. Contains reports on WU funding and a financial statements and supplementary information for the university for year ended June 30, 1961.
Box 2	FF 2	REM-WU. Application for Tax Exemption. Contains 1960-62 correspondence and legal documents concerning the university's application for relief from a tax grievance.
Box 2	FF 3	Tax Assessment-WSU. Contains correspondence, memos, reports, financial statements, legal documents and clippings concerning activities of Wichita State University (WSU) and a 1964 tax assessment and effort to obtain a tax exempt status for the university.
Box 2	FF 4	University of Wichita Financial Statements and Reports 1962-64. Contains a 1962-63 Budget Report and financial statements and supplementary information for year ended June 30, 1962.
Box 2	FF 5	WU Budget 1964 #1. Contains correspondence, minutes, reports, financial statements and legislation concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is a 1963 report, entitled "University of Wichita Campus," concerning the development of the university's campus and buildings.
Box 2	FF 6	WU Budget 1964 #2. Contains correspondence, reports, financial statements and legislation concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is a feasibility study for an Educational Administration Center at WSU.

Box 2	FF 7	WU Budget 1964 #3. Contains correspondence, reports, financial statements and clippings concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is the summer 1963 issue of the <i>AAUP Bulletin</i> and a 1963-64 Budget Report for WU.
Box 2	FF 8	WU Budget 1961. Contains 1958-1961 correspondence, reports and financial statements concerning the operation and funding of WU.
Box 2	FF9	WU Financial Statement 1958-59. Contains 1958-1960 financial statements and correspondence concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is a brochure for Washburn University Law School Graduates of 1959.
Box 2	FF 10	WU-Funding Accounts. Contains 1964 correspondence, reports, clippings, minutes and financial statements concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is a copy of the bylaws for Wichita State University Physical Education Corporation, Inc.
Box 2	FF 11	WU-Improvement Revenue Bonds 1962-64. Contains correspondence, including correspondence from Wichita University President Harry F. Corbin, concerning the operation and funding of WU. Also included in this file is a 1961 Annual Report for the New York Life Insurance Company and a Directory of Graduates of the College of Business Administration and Industry for WU.
Box 2	FF 12	WU-Investment of Idle Funds. 1958-59 Correspondence and reports concerning the financial management and investments of WU.
Box 2	FF 13	WU-Joint Revenue Tax Committee Sales Tax Bill. Contains 1960-61 reports, correspondence and legislation for Wichita University Joint Revenue Tax Committee and its attempt to provide funding for the university through a revenue sales tax.
Box 2	FF 14	WU-State Aid. Contains 1960-62 correspondence, notes, reports, legislation and financial statements concerning the operation and funding of WU.

### **Series 1.3 – Operations and Activities Materials**

Box 3	FF 1	Board of Regents 1954 Development Plan Proposals. Contains correspondence, minutes and reports submitted by the faculty concerning the 1954 Development Plans at Wichita University.
Box 3	FF 2	Colorado Derby Bldg. (Wichita University). Contains 1963-64 correspondence, a prospectus and memorandum concerning the taxation of the Colorado-Derby Building and WU.
Box 3	FF 3	Corporate Tax Facts and Fees. Contains 1962 publications and booklets concerning corporate law and taxation. Also included is a 1962 letter to Harry F. Corbin, University President, letter concerning the WU football program.
Box 3	FF 4	Final Report on the National Defense Language Institute. Contains 1963 report conducted at the University of Wichita.

Box 3	FF 5	Handbook-Gifts and Bequests, University of Wichita, Wichita Kansas. 1958 Report.
Box 3	FF 6	Morton-Variou Correspondence 1960-63. Correspondence concerning WU.
Box 3	FF 7	Summary of Engineering Education at the University of Wichita 1960-61. Contains correspondence and reports concerning the Kansas Farm Bureau, the College of Education and the College of Engineering.
Box 3	FF 8	RBM-WU Steering Committee 1962. Contains correspondence, reports and publications concerning the University of Wichita Steering Committee and other university issues.
Box 3	FF 9	RBM-WU Time Sheets. Contains 1960 time records with a description of the legal work that Judge Morton did for the university.
Box 3	FF 10	University of Wichita. Contains a 1961 preliminary report concerning graduate and professional degrees, a history of the graduate school and a report on the nature of the student body.
Box 3	FF 11	University of Wichita-1962-63. Contains correspondence, minutes of the Board of Regents meetings, financial statements and reports concerning the operation of WU. Included in this file is correspondence from Olive Ann Beech and Wichita University President Harry F. Corbin.
Box 3	FF 12	University-WSU Information. Contains 1959-63 correspondence, reports and publications concerning the operations of WU. Also included in this file are the following: a 1960-61 Student and Faculty Directory; 1959 Annual Report from the Institute for College and University administrators; and a report from Evansville College entitled "A Report of an Investigation by the American Association of University Professors."
Box 3	FF 13	Ways and Means-Wichita University. Contains 1961-63 correspondence, Board of Regents minutes, Ways and Means Committee minutes, reports, clippings, memos and financial statements concerning the operations and funding of WU.
Box 3	FF 14	Wichita State University 1967. Correspondence and legal documents concerning a legal matter between Aetna Life Insurance Company and WSU. Also contains an undated list of the State of Kansas Board of Regents.
Box 3	FF 15	Wichita State University 1968. Correspondence and clippings concerning the passage of Kansas Senate Bill 151 and other university activities.
Box 3	FF 16	Wichita State University. 1969 Correspondence concerning activities at WSU.
Box 3	FF 17	Wichita University No. 3. 1964 Correspondence, committee minutes and financial statements concerning the operations and funding of WU. Included in the correspondence are letters from University President Emory Lindquist.
Box 3	FF 18	Wichita University Personnel Classification. Contains a 1963 position allocations list for WSU.

Box 3	FF 19	WU-Correspondence (Misc.) 1960-63. Contains correspondence, reports, financial statements, legal documents and clippings concerning the operations of the university.
Box 3	FF 20	WU-Education Building. Contains 1963-64 correspondence, reports, minutes, financial statements, publications and personal notes concerning the Corbin Education Center and other university matters.
Box 3	FF 21	WU-Legislative Program (1960). Correspondence concerning the operations of the university.
Box 3	FF 22	WU-Minutes (Board of Regents) (Committee) 1959-61. Minutes for the University of Wichita Board of Regents.
Box 3	FF 23	WU-Minutes-Paul V. Smith Chairman. Various University of Wichita Board of Regents committee minutes and a report on the Harvey D. Grace Memorial Chapel Fund.
Box 3	FF 24	WU-Research and Development Material 1959-61. Contains publications, financial statements, reports and correspondence concerning the operations of WU. Also included in this file is a 1959 publication entitled "A Master Plan Study," concerning the future development of the university.
Box 3	FF 25	WU-Retirement Plan 1958-59. Contains copies of the WU's retirement plan for the years 1958 and 1959.
Box 3	FF 26	WU-State Aid-University of Southern Kansas. Contains 1959-1961 correspondence, reports, publications a legislation concerning the operations of WU and its entrance into the Kansas state system.
Box 3	FF 27	WU-Tuition, salaries, enrollment degrees 1959-61. Contains correspondence and reports concerning the operations of WU.
Box 3	FF 28	WU-Various. 1960-61 Correspondence, reports, financial statements and publications concerning the operations of the university. Also included in this file is a copy of a proposal for a men's residence hall by the Board of Regents of WU. Also included in this file is a 1961 flier from the Kansans for the Right to Work organization.

## **Series 2 – City of Wichita Documentation, 1955-1962**

Box 4	FF 1	American Waterworks Suit. 1962 Correspondence and legal documentation.
Box 4	FF 2	Booklet. Contains a 1961 report entitled "Water Supply in the Wichita Metropolitan Area."
Box 4	FF 3	Robert B. Morton-Correspondence 1962. Contains correspondence, reports and records concerning Morton's work for the City of Wichita on the Cheney Water project.
Box 4	FF 4	Presentation File of Cheney Division Wichita Project (Kansas) Volume I. Contains reports beginning with July 1955 Reconnaissance Report of the Bureau of Reclamation and extending through and including the formal Project Report of the Secretary of the Interior transmitted to Congress on July 6, 1959. Also included in this file is a February 1957 report from the

		U.S. Department of the Interior entitled "Cheney Division Wichita Project: Ninnescah River Basin, Kansas."
Box 4	FF 5	Presentation File of Cheney Division Wichita Project (Kansas) Volume II. Contains 1957-59 reports concerning the legislative action in the United States Senate pertaining to the water supply project.
Box 4	FF 6	Presentation File of Cheney Division Wichita Project (Kansas) Volume III. Contains 1957-59 reports concerning the legislative action in the United States House of Representatives pertaining to the water supply project.
Box 4	FF 7	Publications. Contains a 1961 clipping concerning the Cheney Division water project for the City of Wichita and a January 1961 copy of the <i>American Bar Association Journal</i> .
Box 4	FF 8	W-113 Water Department Time Sheets 1962 and Purchase Orders. Contains receipts and vouchers for Robert B. Morton's services to the Wichita Water Department. These receipts and vouchers give a detailed description of the cases and work conducted by Morton.
Box 4	FF 9	Wichita-Waterworks. Contains 1962 correspondence, publications, legal documents.

### **Series 3 – Personal and Business Documentation, 1942-1964**

Box 4	FF 10	Agreement. 1958 legal documents concerning the inheritance of Richard Bruce Petrie and Charles Judson Petrie.
Box 4	FF 11	Deposits-Judge Robert B. Morton. Contains personal 1957 financial records and lease records for oil and gas production.
Box 4	FF 12	"DUO-BED" 1962-63. Contains correspondence, legal documents, financial statements, photographs, drawings and publications concerning the DUO-BED corporation.
Box 4	FF 13	RBM-American Express Corporation (European Trip Data). Contains 1961 correspondence, passport information, publications and a suggested itinerary for Morton's trip to Europe.
Box 4	FF 14	RBM-Frontier County, Nebraska, Oil Deal. 1961 correspondence concerning oil and gas production in Nebraska. Also included in this file is a 1961 annual report for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation.
Box 4	FF 15	Reports 1951-1961. Contains financial statements for Zephyr Ventilated Awning Company, Inc.
Box 5	FF 1	Robert B. Morton. Contains 1960-62 personal correspondence, business correspondence and business publications. Also included in this file is a copy of <i>Walton's Delight</i> by George Brennand.
Box 5	FF 2	Robert B. Morton-Correspondence 1962. Contains 1961-62 business correspondence, notes, legal documents and publications. Also included in this file are the following: April 1962 publication, <i>Kansas Judicial Council Bulletin</i> ; March 1962 publication by the Gerontological Research Foundation; and copies of 1961 partnership income returns for Murfin



Drilling Co. and the firm of Aley, Morton, and Darrah.

Box 5	FF 3	Semper Fidelis Portfolio. Contains 1942-50 correspondence and documentation concerning Morton's military service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.
Box 5	FF 4	Contains a 1960 memorandum concerning the Cool-Temp Awning and Window Company and a legal pad with handwritten notes.

For information, please contact us at:

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