



BHC-MSS 0129
Guide to the Papers of Judge Samuel Mellitz
By Meg Rinn
February 2021

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Mellitz, Samuel

Title: Papers of Judge Samuel Mellitz

Dates: 1930-1980

Quantity: 2.5 manuscript boxes

Abstract: The first Jewish man to serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court, Judge Samuel Mellitz was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut in May of 1891. His papers reflect legal analysis, notes, and some historical research he undertook over his years of service as a judge.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Samuel Mellitz was born on May 1891 in the City of Bridgeport to Jakob and Peppie (nee Hausman). He went on to study at Yale, and graduated in the class of 1911 with a bachelor of Law.

Judge Mellitz was active both as a judge and as a part of the Bridgeport Jewish community, although the latter is not reflected in these papers. (That material was donated to the Jewish Historical Society in 1983.) A member of the Jewish Community Council, Mellitz was active with various Jewish groups, including sitting on the Board of directors at Yeshiva University, acting as president of Bridgeport's Jewish Community Council, and president of Congregation Ahavat Achim in Fairfield, Connecticut.

He married Sadye L. Silverman in 1916, and had three children with her - Barbara, Jacob, and Beulah.

Mellitz's legal career began with a private practice, running from 1912-1935. Mellitz's first judicial appointment under Governor Wilbur Cross came in 1936. From there, Mellitz served on the Court of Common Pleas and then the State Supreme Court of Errors - the highest court in Connecticut. He retained that position from 1958 until retiring in 1963 and was the first Jewish man to hold the position. Information about his career and court decisions including opinions issued can be found at Courtlistener.com

Samuel Mellitz died in December 1982.

Bibliography

Samuel Mellitz Dead at 91. Jewish Telegraphic Agency. December 29, 1982 Retrieved January 29, 2021. <https://www.jta.org/1982/12/29/archive/samuel-mellitz-dead-at-91>

Samuel Mellitz. Pra book. Retrieved January 29, 2021.
<https://prabook.com/web/samuel.mellitz/1665179>

Samuel Mellitz (Supreme Court of Connecticut). CourtListener.com. Retrieved January 29, 2021.
<https://www.courtlistener.com/person/3970/samuel-mellitz/>

Scope and Content note:

Within these papers are extensive drafts for speeches and addresses, general topics of research and interest, and notes regarding cases. In particular is the file of research about the Golden Hill Courthouse, containing historical research and investigations.

Arrangement Note:

The collection is arranged into two series – Judicial appointments and subject files. The judicial appointments are not numerous, but have been placed first due to importance. The subject files contain research, drafts of speeches, and personal notes.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1983.06, gift of Jacob Mellitz. Samuel Mellitz's papers on the Jewish community in Bridgeport and Connecticut were donated to the Jewish Historical Society of Bridgeport.

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Judge Samuel Mellitz (BHC-MSS 0129), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Mellitz, Samuel

Corporate names

Connecticut. Supreme Court|n79065657

Connecticut. Supreme Court of Errors|n79065658

Subject tracings

Bridgeport, Conn.

Judges|sh85070897

Jewish men|sh87007288

Law| sh85075119

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I, Judicial appointments

Box 1

1. Supreme court term, 1960; Stamford Bar address, 1962
2. Judicial council, 1960
3. Circuit court, 1960-1962

Series II, Subject files

4. Bar journals, remarks to candidates, 1942-1973
5. Bridgeport Bar Association 100th anniversary, 1980
6. Constitution, Connecticut history, courts, 1937-1976
7. Histories of Golden Courthouse and previous judges, 1960-1980

Box 2

1. Judgements reviewed by the Connecticut Supreme Court. 1939-1958
2. Legal analysis and publications, 1930-1949
3. Legal analysis and publications, 1940-1969
4. Legal analysis and publications, 1940-1969
5. Naturalization, 1942-1956
6. Newspaper clippings, 1940-1979
7. Public service, 1956, undated
8. West Side Bank, 1940-1961

Box 3

1. Yale Law School class of 1911, 1958-1976
2. Yale Law School class of 1911, 1958-1976