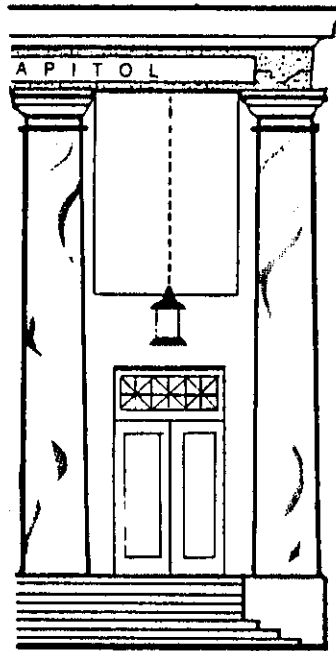


Record Group Inventory

DISTRICT AND TERRITORIAL COURT SYSTEM



ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES
Department of Administration
1987

PREFACE

The first inventories of the historical records of Alaska's state and territorial government are the products of a project initiated by the late Lisa Rudd, Commissioner of the Department of Administration. Through Commissioner Rudd's efforts the Alaska State Archives secured funding to systematically organize these historical records and to make available information about the records.

The records described in these inventories have been determined by the Alaska State Archives to have permanent historical value. They are maintained and made available because they document the policies and activities of state and territorial government, protect public and private rights, and have research value for administrators, scholars and the general public.

The basic unit of records administration and physical control is the record group. A record group usually consists of the records of a single unit of state government: an executive department, the legislature, a judicial district. Many record groups have been further divided into subgroups corresponding to major divisions, sections, offices or boards within each agency. Records within subgroups have been arranged as individual series based on the records' subject, function, form, type of activity documented, or other quality. In addition to record descriptions, these inventories also offer short histories of each major government agency for which records exist.

Record Groups 505 through 509 contain records from Alaska's pre-statehood courts. The court of the District of Alaska (1884-1900) and the four federal district courts (1900-1960) not only enforced laws, but undertook many executive functions as well. Court officers were often the only government representatives in Alaska's rural areas. Their records provide researchers with documentary sources of local history.

The Alaska State Archives processing project was directed by Deputy State Archivist John Stewart, who also coordinated publication of the inventories. Project archivists Glenda Choate and Rebecca Pixler arranged and described records and researched agency histories. Staff support was provided by Ron Hilbert, Jim Peterson and Norma Sardeson. The word processing unit of the Department of Administration deserves special thanks for typing the inventories and for making helpful suggestions about format and typography.

JOHN M. KINNEY
Alaska State Archives

RECORD GROUPS 505-509

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT AND TERRITORY OF ALASKA 1884-1960

Alaska is unique among states in never creating its own provisional or territorial court system. From 1884 to 1960, its only court system was that of the United States federal district court, with general jurisdiction in civil, criminal, equity, and admiralty causes. In the absence of a territorial court system or executive officers, district court officials assumed numerous ex officio functions related to territorial administration and local law enforcement. Judges ordered incorporation elections and validated results. Court clerks issued business licenses and collected revenues. Federal marshals enforced laws enacted by a territorial legislature. United States commissioners provided minimal government services and local justice to a mobile population widely distributed through vast and remote areas.

Establishment of Courts in Alaska:

The Treaty of Cession, by which Alaska was acquired from Russia, was approved in 1867. However, Congress made no immediate effort to provide courts or a code of laws for the acquired land. Military courts, first of the United States Army (1868-1878) and then Navy (1878-1886) adjudicated minor offenses. Major offenders were transferred to the jurisdiction of the nearest federal district court in Portland, Oregon.

The first Organic Act was approved on May 17, 1884. The act defined Alaska as a civil and judicial district ("District of Alaska") with its seat of government at Sitka. A governor appointed by the president was charged with protecting the interests of the United States in Alaska, but a legislative assembly and congressional representation were specifically excluded. The general laws of the state of Oregon were extended to Alaska and the judiciary was represented at Sitka by one federal judge, a court clerk, a district attorney and a marshal. Four United States commissioners, appointed by the president maintained justice courts and related services at Sitka, Wrangell, Unalaska, and Juneau. The marshal appointed four deputies to serve each commissioner's court. The Organic Act also assigned court officers ex officio, non-judicial responsibilities: the clerk was district secretary and treasurer, the marshal was surveyor general, and the Sitka commissioner was land registrar. Legislative amendments in 1897 and 1898 modified land registration provisions and established a separate surveyor general for the District of Alaska.

In 1899 Congress passed a criminal code for the District of Alaska. The code defined crimes and established sentences applicable to the district. It also provided for additional commissioners to be appointed by the district judge, and for the appointment of additional United States marshals.

An entirely new civil government for Alaska was established in 1900. Executive officers included the appointed governor and the surveyor general, designated ex officio district secretary and keeper of the district seal. The district court was reestablished and enlarged to three divisions with judges seated at Juneau, Saint Michael and Eagle City. The Division Two court at Saint Michael was almost immediately transferred to Nome at the start of the 1900 Nome gold strike. The three division judges appointed clerks and commissioners in and for the divisions, as well as other support staff such as stenographers, jailers, cooks, and custodians. United States marshals and district attorneys, one for each division, continued to be appointed by the president, but were able to appoint their own deputies and assistants.

In 1909, Alaska's court system was again reorganized into the form it would take until statehood. The new federal district court consisted of four separate divisions, with division courts located at Juneau, Nome, Valdez, and Fairbanks. Structure and personnel of each court remained essentially the same for the remainder of the territorial period.

Characteristics of the Alaska Court System Prior to Statehood:

After 1900, Alaska's court divisions began to assume individual characters which are reflected in the records accessioned for each division. The First Division, comprising southeast Alaska, shows stability and continuity from 1884 with establishment of the court. Records of the Second Division (northwest Alaska) show the reestablishment of the court at Nome and early Nome records (1900-1902) may show inconsistencies attributable to the removal of the division's first judge on charges of corruption. The volatile nature of the early Second Division is also shown by the numerous and fluctuating commissioner precincts, the records of which were transferred to the district clerk's office in instances where the commissioner's position was abolished. In 1900, the Third Division covered most of interior and western Alaska. Judicial activity was centered in mining areas along the Yukon River and was to concentrate around Fairbanks. Population and assignment of United States commissioners fluctuated in relation to activity in these mining areas. In 1909 interior Alaska became the separate Fourth Division, with its court at Fairbanks and the new Third Division court was established at Valdez. The new court provided justice to the Aleutian Peninsula in addition to southcentral and western Alaska.

The Alaska court system continually sought to meet the challenges of providing justice to a widespread, mobile population. Judges held court terms in cities throughout their respective divisions. United States Treasury revenue cutters and subsequently Coast Guard ships brought the so-called "floating court" of judges and marshals to outlying communities in the Second and Third Divisions.

Judges also assigned United States commissioners as need as another method to meet the challenges. Designated ex officio justices of the peace, magistrates, recorders and probate judges, the commissioners embodied all lower court functions. They heard civil and criminal actions of limited scope; bound over other cases to the district court; registered births and

deaths, performed and recorded marriages; probated estates of deceased persons; commissioned search and rescue parties; served as coroner; and held inquests and insanity hearings. In remote areas, the commissioner and the postmaster were often the only government officials in the region. The unsalaried commissioners received only fees for the services they performed, and often maintained other income sources as well.

Congressional action of August 24, 1912--the second Organic Act--created the Territory of Alaska and provided for a territorial legislature. The act extended jurisdiction of the federal district courts to cases arising under territorial law and assigned to court clerks new responsibilities related to administration of elections. Within the new territory, incorporated municipalities could now elect their own judges, who had jurisdiction over misdemeanors.

In accordance with provisions of the Statehood Act, the Alaska court system succeeded the federal district courts and in 1960 the state judicial system became functional. The state judiciary consists of the supreme court, a court of appeals, superior and district courts, and district magistrates. The state is divided into four judicial districts which generally correspond to former federal court divisions. Presiding superior court judges are assigned on a rotating basis to administer each district.

United States District Court Officers and Their Records:

The same general administrative structure applied to each court division. Records maintained by court officers were defined by statute or by custom, but the records of no two divisions were exactly alike.

Clerk of Court:

Clerks were appointed by the president (1884-1900) and subsequently by district judges (1900-1960). Clerks preserved copies of all laws and records applicable to the district and recorded all proceedings and official acts of their divisions. They also collected and received all monies arising from fees of their office, licenses, fines, forfeitures and judgments. Each clerk had the power to prove or acknowledge all written legal instruments, including conveyances of real property. The clerks kept the seal of the court and affixed it when required by law. Copies of annual financial statements of both foreign and domestic corporations were filed with the clerk, who also issued business and liquor licenses.

Allowing for local variations, the following list represents the type of records created by court officials and maintained by the clerk:

Administrative records	Exhibits
Admiralty records	Financial and accounting records
Appointments	Incorporation records
Bankruptcy records	Indexes
Bond records	Jail registers
Business license records	Journals, civil and criminal
Case files, civil and criminal	Jury books
Commissioner records	Letter books
Corporation records	Liquor license records
Correspondence	Naturalization records
Dockets, civil and criminal	Order and judgment dockets
Election precinct establishments	Term minutes
Execution dockets	Trial calendars

United States Marshals:

Marshals were appointed for four-year terms by the president with Senate concurrence. The United States attorney general established marshals' salaries and approved appointment of deputies. Originally one marshal (ex officio surveyor general) was appointed for all Alaska, but after 1900 a marshal was appointed for each division.

The marshal was the executive officer of the court and was charged with the execution of all process, including transportation and custody of prisoners and insane persons. The marshal was ex officio keeper of jails and was bonded for the acts of appointed deputy marshals. The deputies were ex officio constables and executive officers for the United States commissioners. After 1949, the marshals and their deputies were also charged with enforcement of all criminal laws enacted by the territorial legislature.

The following records represent the type kept by the United States marshals:

- Correspondence
- Dockets
- Financial records
- Warrant register

United States District Attorneys:

District attorneys were appointed, one in each division, by the president with Senate concurrence. The United States attorney general established salaries and approved appointments of assistants. The district attorneys served as prosecuting attorneys in enforcing the criminal code of Alaska. They also acted as legal advisors to the United States commissioners.

To date, no records of federal district attorneys have been accessioned by the archives.

United States Commissioners:

Commissioners were initially appointed by the president (1884-1900). After 1900, they were appointed by judges of the district court. The commissioners served no specified term of office and were required to reside at the place designated in their orders of appointment. Designated ex officio justices of the peace, magistrates, recorders and probate judges, the commissioners embodied all lower court functions. They heard civil and criminal actions of limited scope; bound over other cases to the district court; registered births and deaths, performed and recorded marriages; probated estates of deceased persons; commissioned search and rescue parties; served as coroner; and held inquests and insanity hearings. Unsalaries, the commissioners received only fees from the services they performed.

The following records represent the type kept by the United States commissioners:

Case files	Dockets
Civil	Civil
Criminal	Criminal
Coroner	Probate
Insanity	Journals
Juvenile	Civil
Probate	Criminal
Search and rescue	Probate
Correspondence	

The records of the federal district court in Alaska are described and arranged in five record groups.

The records for each record group are organized into series with each series described in detail.

RECORD GROUPS 505-509
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT AND TERRITORY OF ALASKA 1884-1960

RECORD GROUP/SERIES

RECORD GROUP 505

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF
ALASKA 1884-1900

Series 69	Journal 1884-1900
Series 430	Dockets 1884-1900
Series 432	Minute Book 1890-1897
Series 70	Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1884-1912
Series 68	Letter Books 1884-1899
Series 46	Financial Records 1892-1899
Series 47	Commissioner Reports 1895-1900
Series 115	District Judge Correspondence 1897-1903
Series 116	Marshal Correspondence 1889-1902
Series 431	Clerk Letters Received 1887-1889
Series 117	Jail Register 1898-1916

RECORD GROUP 506

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FIRST DIVISION
1900-1960

Series 59	Journal 1900-1960
Series 433	Civil Docket 1900-1960
Series 434	Criminal Docket 1900-1953
Series 435	Judgment Docket 1900-1960
Series 112	Case Files (1901-1966)-1975
Series 73	Term Minutes 1900-1935
Series 63	Grand Jury Reports 1909-1960
Series 49	Commissioner Reports 1900-1917
Series 67	Business License Applications (1901-1919)-1933
Series 66	Business License Register 1899-1922
Series 64	Election Precinct Establishment Records 1906-1908
Series 110	Incorporation Records 1929-1959
Series 452	Incorporation Docket 1900-1961
Series 60	Liquor License Petitions 1900-1916
Series 62	Naturalization Records 1900-1960
Series 113	Occupational Register 1913-1978
Series 48	Financial Reports 1900-1911
Series 61	Financial Records 1900-1917

RECORD GROUP 506 (Continued)

Series 54	Miscellaneous Records 1900-1922
Series 57	Commissioner Records 1887-1960
Series 56	Commissioner Civil Case Files 1890-1960
Series 111	Commissioner Criminal Case Files 1956-1960
Series 58	Commissioner Probate Case Files 1894-1966
Series 203	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Docket 1884-1900
Series 204	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Civil Docket 1900-1960
Series 206	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Criminal Docket 1901-1960
Series 209	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Register 1890-1933; 1948
Series 208	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Journal 1885-1955
Series 205	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Civil Case Files 1907-1929; 1956-1960
Series 207	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Criminal Case Files 1900-1929; 1935-1960
Series 210	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Case Files 1890-1960
Series 211	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Records of Adoptions, Custody Actions and Insanity Hearings 1829-1953
Series 212	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Coroner's Records 1918-1969
Series 214	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Financial Records 1907-1911; 1942-1948
Series 213	United States Commissioner, Sitka: Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1892-1932
Series 65	Marshal Warrant Register 1901-1929
Series 52	Marshal Financial Records 1897-1916

RECORD GROUP 507

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SECOND DIVISION
1900-1960

Series 342	Civil Journal 1900-1959
Series 344	Criminal Journal 1900-1904
Series 346	Order and Judgment Journal 1904-1960
Series 343	Civil Docket 1901-1959
Series 345	Criminal Docket 1900-1959
Series 347	Judgment Docket 1901-1915
Series 429	Civil Case Files 1957-1959
Series 356	Case Exhibits 1905-1914
Series 350	Name Indexes 1900-1959
Series 351	Admiralty Records 1900-1960
Series 348	Term Minutes 1900-1914
Series 354	Jury Records 1900-1960
Series 349	Commissioner Reports 1900-1960
Series 362	Bankruptcy Records 1903-1978
Series 352	Bond Records 1900-1959

RECORD GROUP 507 (Continued)

Series 360	Business and Occupational Registers 1900-1975
Series 367	Corporation Reports 1900-1973
Series 357	Execution Docket 1900-1960
Series 361	Letter Books 1901-1908
Series 355	Account Records 1891-1912
Series 341	Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1900-1959
Series 359	Commissioner Records 1899-1960
Series 363	Commissioner Civil Case Files 1914-1958
Series 353	Commissioner Criminal Case Files 1910-1960
Series 365	Commissioner Insanity Hearing Case Files 1905-1959
Series 364	Commissioner Coroner's Case Files 1900-1959
Series 366	Commissioner Miscellaneous Files 1919-1956
Series 358	Marshal Criminal and Civil Docket 1904-1951

RECORD GROUP 508

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, THIRD DIVISION
1900-1960

Series 453	Incorporation Records 1902-1935
Series 454	Incorporation Docket 1899-1943
Series 409	Commissioner Records 1902-1955
Series 410	Commissioner Case Files 1918-1957
Series 411	Commissioner Insanity and Juvenile Records 1929-1957
Series 413	Commissioner Reports 1912-1953
Series 414	Commissioner Correspondence Files 1929-1958
Series 412	Commissioner Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1931-1956

RECORD GROUP 509

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FOURTH DIVISION
1900-1960

Series 415	Journal 1900-1960
Series 416	Civil Docket 1900-1960
Series 419	Criminal Docket 1900-1957
Series 417	Judgment Docket 1901-1961
Series 422	Miscellaneous Dockets 1902-1960
Series 418	Civil Case Files 1917-(1950-1960)
Series 420	Criminal Case Files 1931-(1955-1960)
Series 423	Trial Calendar 1899-1908
Series 424	Grand Jury Reports 1926-1928
Series 425	Appointments 1910-1959
Series 421	Business and Corporation Docket 1900-1979
Series 426	Commissioner Records 1898-1960
Series 427	Commissioner Case Files 1903-1961
Series 428	Marshal Docket 1900-1917

RECORD GROUP 505
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

The Organic Act of 1884 defined the territory ceded by Russia to the United States as a civil and judicial district with its seat of government at Sitka. The act provided for the appointment of a governor and established a district court. The governor was charged with protecting the interests of the United States within the district and most court officers were given ex officio, nonjudicial responsibilities: the clerk as district secretary and treasurer, the marshal as surveyor general, and the United States commissioners as land registrars. The Organic Act further provided that the general laws of the state of Oregon were to be in effect in the district. However, general land laws of the United States, with the exception of those relating to mines and mining claims, were not to be in effect.

Amendments in 1897 and 1898 modified the land registration provisions of the act. These amendments provided for a registrar and receiver of public money for each land district, as well as for a surveyor general for the District of Alaska. In 1899, Congress passed a criminal code for the District of Alaska. The code defined crimes and established sentences applicable for the district. It also provided for additional commissioners to be appointed by the district judge and for additional deputy marshals to be appointed by the district United States marshal.

An entirely new civil government for Alaska was established in 1900. This act provided for the appointment of a governor, as well as a surveyor general of the district who was ex officio secretary of the district and custodian of the district seal. A district court for the District of Alaska was also created. The court was divided into three divisions with a district judge presiding in each division.

Record Group 505 includes records from the district court for the District of Alaska (1884-1900). These records are primarily those created or maintained by the clerk of the court as custodian of the court's proceedings. Also included are reports and records of the United States marshal as executive officer of the court and reports and records of the United States commissioners. Additionally, one series (Series 68) contains correspondence of the court clerk in one or more of the clerk's ex officio capacities (i.e., acting governor, district secretary, and district treasurer).

Series 69 Journal 1884-1900. 10 volumes.

These volumes document proceedings of the United States district court at Sitka for the period 1884-1900. Record types include transcriptions of petitions, reports, orders, and judgments for civil cases and indictments, pleas, motions, orders, jury verdicts, and sentences for criminal actions. Indexes to names of parties to court actions are included. After 1900 the district court was divided into first three and then four separate judicial divisions. See Record Groups 506, 507, 508, and 509 for federal district court records after 1900.

Series 430 Dockets 1884-1905. 9 volumes.

The clerk maintained separate dockets for civil and criminal cases brought before the court. The civil docket was maintained separately from a civil case fee book until 1898. Starting in December 1898, the docket and fee book was maintained as one volume. The criminal docket was maintained similarly until 1898, when the criminal docket and fee book came together as one volume. The clerk maintained two related dockets: a judge's docket with entries for 1885, and a volume of transcribed judgments. The judge's docket listed cases to be heard during a court day. The volume of transcribed judgments recorded selected decisions by the district court. These judgments related primarily to real estate. The judge's docket was maintained until 1905.

Series 432 - Minute Book 1890-1897. 1 volume.

The clerk recorded in the minute book daily actions of the court and gave brief description of actions taken by the parties, as well as court decisions rendered. Both criminal and civil actions are documented.

Series 70 - Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1884-1912. 4 volumes.

This series compiles a number of records relating to the administrative activities of the district court. Included are: (1) transcriptions of legal instruments recording the appointment, oath and bond of all federal officials (e.g., governor, district judge, clerk, marshals and deputies, district attorney and commissioners); and (2) miscellaneous records, legal instruments and transcription of the first report by the governor of Alaska to the United States Secretary of the Interior.

Series 68 - Letter Books 1884-1899. 1 volume + 5 rolls mf.

This series comprises a record of letters sent by the clerk during the period 1884-1899. During this time the clerk, in addition to performing court duties, also functioned as secretary of the district and as acting governor when the governor was absent. The correspondence reflects these varied responsibilities. See Series 431 Clerks Letters Received 1887-1889 which covers part of the time period of this series.

Series 46 - Financial Records 1892-1899. .66 cu. ft. + 1 roll mf.

These records, maintained by the clerk, constitute a statement of the accounts of the court. The records consist of semiannual reports of money received and disbursed during the reporting period (1894-1897), as well as miscellaneous receipts and vouchers (1892-1899).

Series 47 - Commissioner Reports 1895-1900. .66 cu. ft.

The court was responsible for administrative oversight of United States commissioners assigned to precincts within the District of Alaska. These records consist of quarterly reports made to the district court by commissioners in outlying areas. Record information in each report lists services performed and fees received by commissioners.

Series 115 - United States District Judge Correspondence 1897-1903. 2 volumes.

This series consists of letters received by United States district judges Charles Johnson (1897-1900) and Melvin C. Brown (1900-1903). Brown was district judge of the First Division following reorganization and division of the court in July 1900.

Series 116 - Marshal Correspondence 1889-1902. 2 volumes + one ff.

This series includes letters received by United States marshals Oliver T. Porter, Louis L. Williams, and James M. Shoup for the periods 1889-1895 and 1897-1901. Also included is one volume of letters sent to the United States attorney general by the marshals (1899-1902).

Series 431 - Clerk Letters Received 1887-1889. 1 roll mf.

This series comprises a record of letters received by the clerk during the period 1887-1889, when the clerk also functioned as district secretary and acting governor.

Series 117 - Jail Register 1898-1916. 1 volume.

This series is a register of prisoners received at the United States jail at Sitka. Record information includes name of prisoner, court committing prisoner, date of commitment, crime and date of release.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FIRST DIVISION
RECORD GROUP 506

The district court for Alaska was located at Sitka (1884-1900), with administrative responsibility for the entire district. When federal legislation reorganized the court (1900), Juneau became the new court location for the First Division, which comprised southeast Alaska. The same legislation provided for additional commissioners, who were assigned to what were variously called recording districts, election districts or precincts. Commissioners reported to the clerk of the court; some commissioners outside southeast Alaska continued to report to the clerk of the Juneau court for a short period after 1900.

The following First Division communities were served by commissioners whose records have been accessioned by the archives.

Chichagof Island	Metlakatla
Douglas	Porcupine
Dyea (Skagway)	Shakan
Haines	Sitka
Hoonah	Skagway
Juneau	Sulzer
Kasaan	Wrangell
Ketchikan	Yakutat
Killisnoo	

Reports from commissioners for communities outside the First Division:

Kodiak (1900-1902)
Unga (1897-1902)
Valdez (1901-1902)

Series 59 - Journal 1900-1960. 62 volumes.

These volumes document proceedings of the district court. Between 1900 and 1924, there are separate journals for civil and criminal proceedings. After 1924 a single journal records the action of the court. Record types include transcriptions of petitions, motions, writs, summaries of testimony and evidence in support of parties' claims in civil actions. For criminal proceedings, records entered may include complaints, warrants, subpoenas, undertakings for bails, summaries of trial testimony, and jury verdicts. The journal also includes orders, sentences and judgments. The series also includes journals of special terms of the court held at Skagway, Ketchikan and Valdez.

Series 433 - Civil Docket 1900-1960. 13 volumes + 5 cu. ft.

These volumes constitute a docket of civil actions brought before the court. Each entry consists of a numbered case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken and fees paid. The series also includes dockets of civil cases heard at Ketchikan and Skagway.

Series 434 - Criminal Docket 1900-1953. 5 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of criminal actions brought before the court. Each entry consists of a case caption, numbered by page or case number, with a listing by date of actions undertaken and fees paid.

Series 435 - Judgment Docket 1900-1960. 3 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of orders and judgments made by the court in civil actions. Each entry consists of a case caption, with information including name of judgment debtors and creditors, amount of judgment, dates of recording appeals, decision on appeal, date of execution and satisfaction.

Series 112 - Case Files (1901-1966)-1975. 9.5 cu.ft.

This series comprises both civil and criminal case files. A variety of case types is represented, including bankruptcy cases, juvenile cases, cases brought under the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, suits by Alaska Native communities, and delinquent municipal tax rolls. Record types include court pleadings, correspondence, photographs, plats and drawings entered as evidentiary exhibits, statistical reports, and legal instruments.

Series 73 - Term Minutes 1900-1935. 1.33 cu. ft.

The clerk maintained minutes of special and general terms of the court. Minutes record daily actions of the court and give a brief description of actions taken by parties, as well as court decisions rendered. Included in this series are minutes of term sessions of the district court and special terms at Ketchikan and Skagway, 1909-1935.

Series 63 - Grand Jury Reports 1909-1960. .33 cu. ft.

These records consist of narrative reports by grand jury foremen to the district court judge, summarizing a jury's activities during specific court terms at Juneau and Ketchikan. Each report gives statistics relating to types of cases heard and actions taken, as well as reports of investigations undertaken by the jury.

Series 49 - Commissioner Reports 1900-1917. 7.33 cu. ft.

These records consist of quarterly reports made to the district court by commissioners in outlying precincts. Most reports are from precincts in southeast Alaska but a small number of northern precincts are represented for the years 1900-1902. The reports show fees accepted by commissioners in fulfillment of their various duties.

Series 67 - Business License Applications (1901-1919)-1933. 31 cu. ft.

Persons seeking to do business in Alaska were required to file business license applications with the court clerk of the district in which the business was located. This series consists of license applications filed with the First Division court clerk at Juneau. Applications are from the cities of Douglas, Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Haines, Petersburg, Skagway, Treadwell, and other locations outside incorporated cities. Most of the applications are from the years 1907-1919. For liquor licenses, see Series 60, Liquor License Petitions 1900-1916.

Series 66 - Business License Register 1899-1922. 5.33 cu. ft.

The district court granted business licenses upon application. The licenses were registered by the court. This series comprises registers and receipts books for business licenses issued throughout Alaska (1899-1900) and subsequently in the first district (1900-1922). RELATED SERIES: Series 67, Business License Applications (1901-1919)-1933.

Series 64 - Election Precinct Establishment Records (1906-1908). .33 cu. ft.

Federal legislation in 1906 provided for the election of a nonvoting delegate to Congress from Alaska. This series includes petitions to the court clerk for the establishment of election precincts, as well as correspondence and court orders establishing precinct boundaries and appointing election officials.

Series 110 - Incorporation Records 1911-1959. 4 volumes + .5 cu. ft.

This series consists of articles of incorporation and related documents (amendments, statements of condition, designation and consent of agents, and minutes of stockholders' meetings) filed with the clerk of the district court in Juneau. Articles of domestic corporations are filed in bound volumes. Later incorporations, in file folders, are primarily those of nonprofit corporations or partnerships from locations throughout the First Division, including Wrangell, Sitka, Ketchikan, Skagway and Juneau. This series also includes eight bank incorporations filed in the First Division in the 1950s.

Series 452 - Incorporation Docket 1900-1961. 3 volumes.

These volumes constitute a register of the incorporating of domestic corporations. Incorporations were filed with the court of the district court at Juneau. Each entry includes corporation name and date of incorporation. Entries for the years 1903-1961 also include docket number, principal corporation office, description of legal instruments filed, and date of filing.

Series 60 - Liquor License Petitions 1900-1916. 2 cu. ft.

Persons seeking to sell liquor in Alaska were required to file liquor license applications with the clerk of the appropriate district court. This series consists of liquor license applications filed with the First Division court clerk in Juneau. Records consist of individual application files, together with associated records. Each file may contain application, census of residents within designated distance of the proposed liquor establishment, objections to granting the license and related correspondence, and subsequent court actions. RELATED SERIES: Series 66, Business License Register 1899-1922.

Series 62 - Naturalization Records 1900-1960. 8 cu. ft. +1 roll mf.

This series includes the following record types: applications for United States citizenship, court orders and documents, and correspondence relating to individual applications. These records were maintained in post-bound volumes. One volume of Indian citizenship petitions (1916-1924) is maintained separately. A microfilm index to naturalizations in Skagway (1901-1917) and Juneau (1900-1929) is available. Restricted.

Series 113 - Occupational Register 1913-1978. .33 cu. ft.

In addition to its judicial duties, the federal district court in Juneau was responsible for various administrative functions. One was the registration of professionals doing business in the First Division. This series includes registers of dentists (1913-1978) and optometrists (1933-1978). A register of physicians and surgeons (1913-1981), originally accessioned by the archives, was returned to the clerk of the trial court in 1982. Individual registrations contain the following information: name, address, date of certificate, date of registration or filing, certificate number, and date of revocation. A number of loose records have been tipped into the register books. These include records relating to the nonpayment of taxes, licenses to be revoked (May 1934), failure by physicians to pay license renewal fees (1975), and copies of licenses.

Series 48 - Financial Reports 1900-1911. 1.33 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the district court clerk, reflect receipts and disbursements of the clerk's office. Quarterly reports made to the federal Department of Justice record transactions such as licenses issued within and outside incorporated cities, fees for services performed, and sales of confiscated or unclaimed property.

Series 61 - Financial Records 1900-1917. 2 cu. ft.

These records are primarily vouchers for office and administrative expenses of the court clerk, as approved by the district judge and ordered paid by the United States marshal.

Series 54 - Miscellaneous Records 1900-1922. 5.66 cu. ft.

This series includes several types of records which are combined because the records of each type are extremely fragmentary and incomplete. Record types include exhibits (usually receiver's ledgers), bond securities, and miscellaneous legal instruments and records.

Series 57 - Commissioner Records 1887-1960. 72 volumes.

The clerk of the district court acquired records from defunct United States commissioners. These records included civil, criminal, and probate dockets and journals, most frequently in the form of bound volumes. Docket volume entries featured numbered case captions followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken, legal instruments filed, disposition of case, or fees collected. Journals constitute the official record (transcription) of legal instruments generated in civil and criminal actions brought before the court, or in the proving of estates of deceased persons. A small number of other record types also appears in this series: coroner's inquests, trial dockets, order journal, and record of administrators (probate), as well as index volumes in some dockets and journals. Some pre-1900 records are present for precincts outside southeast Alaska. Case files for the court actions docketed within these volumes are organized in other commissioner series according to type of action. Records have been organized geographically by commissioner precinct. These include Juneau, Chichagof Island, Dyea, Skagway, Douglas, Sulzer, Unga and Yakutat. See Record Group 506, Series 203, 204, 206, 208, and 209 for comparable records from Sitka and Hoonah precincts. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions, and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 56 - Commissioner Civil Case Files 1890-1960. 19 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by civil court actions brought before United States commissioners. Each case file may contain complaint, response, affidavits, subpoenas, evidence in support of parties' claims, summaries of testimony, court judgment and order, and accounting of court costs and fees. The cases are primarily actions to recover money.

Series 111 - Commissioner Criminal Case Files 1956-1960. 6 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by criminal court actions brought before the United States commissioners. Each case file may contain complaint, response, summons, reports, affidavits, subpoenas, evidence in support of parties' claims, summaries of testimony, correspondence, or accountings of court costs and fees.

Series 58 - Commissioner Probate Case Files 1894-1966. 77 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by United States commissioners as ex officio probate judges throughout the First Division, consist principally of case files generated by the proving of the estates of deceased persons. Other case files relate to adoptions, guardianships, and certifications of persons as insane. Probate case files may include original legal instruments; accounts of commissioner fees and burial expenses; notice to and claims of creditors; correspondence related to estate administration; title documents relating to decedent's property; decedent's personal papers (may include photographs and correspondence); and documentation submitted by heirs in proof of kinship. Other types of case files may include original legal instruments (e.g., petitions, bonds, letters of guardianships, order to adopt, medical certificates, and certificates of commitment as insane); correspondence relating to individual cases; and records of court costs and commissioner's fees. Records of the United States commissioner at Juneau also include records relating to missing persons, coroner's inquests, and probates related to the wreck of the ship Princess Sophia (1918). Records for the following commissioner precincts are included: Juneau, Douglas, Haines, and Ketchikan. See Record Group 506, Series 210-212, for Sitka probate and related case files. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 203 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Docket 1884-1900. 6 volumes.

These volumes, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, constitute a docket of criminal and civil court actions brought before the commissioner. Each entry consists of a case caption followed by a listing, and often a more detailed description, of actions undertaken, legal instruments filed, and ultimate disposition of case. Records of court costs and commissioner's fees may also be included. These records are continued by: Series 206, Criminal Docket 1901-1915; 1930-1960; and Series 204, Civil Docket 1900-1960.

Series 204 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Civil Docket 1900-1960. 3 volumes.

These volumes, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka and Hoonah, constitute a docket of civil court actions brought before the commissioner. Each entry consists of a case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken.

Series 206 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Criminal Docket 1901-1960. 14 volumes.

These volumes, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka and Hoonah, constitute a docket of criminal court actions brought before the commissioner. Each entry consists of a case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken, legal instruments filed, disposition of case.

Series 209 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Register (1890-1933)-1948. 3 volumes

These volumes, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka constitute a partial docket of actions undertaken in Sitka probate court. Each entry consists of a case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken, legal instruments filed, etc. A record of fees received by the commissioner may also be present. Some volumes include records of adoptions, guardianships, and insanity hearings, as well as probate matters. The form and degree of completeness of entry vary according to the practices of individual commissioners. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions, and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 208 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Journal 1885-1955. 9 volumes.

These volumes, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka constitute the official record of legal instruments generated in the proving of estates of deceased persons. Records of adoptions and guardianships may also be included in individual volumes. The form and degree of completeness of entry for each estate vary according to the practices of the individual commissioner. RELATED SERIES: Series 210, Probate Case Files 1890-1960; Series 209, Probate Register 1890-1933; Series 204, Civil Docket 1900-1960 (Vol. III, Hoonah probate records); Series 211, Records of Adoptions, Custody Actions, and Insanity Hearings 1892-1953. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions, and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 205 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Civil Case Files 1907-1960. .5 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, consist of case files generated by civil court actions brought before the commissioner. Each case file may contain complaint, response, and court judgment and order; various legal instruments such as motions, writs, affidavits, and subpoenas; letters sent and received; evidence in support of parties' claims; summaries of testimony; and accounting of court costs and fees.

Series 207 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Criminal Case Files 1900-1960. 3 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, consist of case files generated by criminal court actions brought before the commissioner. Case files may include: original legal instruments (complaint, warrants, subpoenas, undertaking for bail, jury verdict, judgment, and commitment to jail); witness statements and depositions; incoming and outgoing letters relating to cases; and accountings of court costs and commissioner fees.

Series 210 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Probate Case Files 1890-1960. 11.5 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, consist of case files generated by the proving of estates of deceased persons. Case files may include: original legal instruments (recorded in Series 208, Probate Journal 1885-1955); accountings of commissioner fees and burial expenses; notices to creditors; claims of creditors; correspondence relating to the administration of the estate; report of estate administrator; title documents relating to decedent's property; and decedent's personal papers and incoming and outgoing letters, both business and personal.

Series 211 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Records of Adoptions, Custody Action and Insanity Hearings 1892-1953. .5 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, consist primarily of case files relating to adoptions, guardianships and other forms of custody, and certifications of persons as insane. Record types include: original legal instruments, letters sent and received which relate to individual cases and records of court costs and commissioner's fees. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions, and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 212 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Coroner's Records 1918-1969. .5 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, and subsequently by the Sitka District Magistrate of the First Judicial District of the State of Alaska, relate to official inquiries: search and rescue parties, presumption of death of missing persons, and coroner's inquests. Types of records include: original legal instruments (petitions to authorize search parties, orders, subpoenas, and coroner's jury verdicts); texts and/or summaries of inquest testimony; letters sent and received which relate to individual cases; and statement of court costs, search costs, and commissioner's fees.

Series 214 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Financial Records 1907-1948. 2 volumes.

These records, maintained by the United States commissioner at Sitka, constitute a partial statement of the commissioner's accounts. In particular, these records document fees accepted by various incumbent commissioners in fulfillment of their varied duties as recorder, probate judge, notary public, justice of the peace, coroner, and recorder of marriages. Record information may include: date of fee filing, name of person filing, nature of legal instrument filed, volume in which instrument was officially recorded, fee for service of instrument, date and person to whom instrument was served.

Series 213 - United States Commissioner, Sitka: Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1892-1932. .25 cu. ft.

This series includes several types of records (principally letters, reports, forms, and legal instruments) which are combined because the records of each type are extremely fragmentary and incomplete. Topical areas include: incoming and outgoing letters, records of coal and placer oil mining claims filed, commissioner fees earned in 1916, bonds recorded, applications for automobile licenses and records of fees for license plates, records relating to the incorporation of the town of Tenakee, and trapping and fur dealer licenses.

Series 65 - Marshal Warrant Register 1901-1929. 4 volumes.

These volumes list warrants issued by the United States marshal and approved by the district judge. Each entry reflects payee, number of warrant, amount paid, and the purpose of the payment.

Series 52 - Marshal Financial Records 1890 - (1900-1916). 7 cu. ft., 2 volumes.

These records are primarily vouchers and other support documentation for warrants issued by the United States marshal for expenses incurred in the execution of the marshal's duties. These documents were submitted to the district judge for approval. The marshal maintained various types of accounts: salaries, fees and expenses, fees for witnesses, support of prisoners, pay for bailiffs, and miscellaneous expenses. This series also includes one volume of statements of account (1897-1916) and one volume of fees for witnesses (1890-1897).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SECOND DIVISION RECORD GROUP 507

Federal legislation established the Second Division court at St. Michael (subsequently Nome) in 1900. The same legislation provided for additional commissioners, who were assigned to what were variously called recording districts, election districts, or precincts. Commissioners reported to the clerk of the district court.

The following Second Division precincts or communities were served by commissioners whose records have been accessioned by the archives.

Candle (Fairhaven)
Cape Nome (City of Nome)
Council City
Fairhaven
Haycock (Koyuk)
Kougarok

Koyuk
Port Clarence
St. Michael
Teller (Port Clarence)
Wade Hampton

Series 342 - Civil Journal 1900-1959. 23 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which constitute the official record (transcription) of legal proceedings generated in civil cases brought before the court. Records entered may include complaint, response, motion, writs, affidavits, subpoenas, summaries of testimony, and evidence in support of parties' claims. Two volumes contain allowance orders (court awarded payments to witnesses, interpreters, supply vendors and others). See Series 346, Orders and Judgment Journal 1901-1960.

Series 344 - Criminal Journal 1900-1904. 3 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which constitute the official record (transcription) of legal proceedings in criminal cases brought before the court. Records entered may include complaints, warrants, subpoenas, undertakings for bail, jury verdicts, witness statements, and correspondence related to cases. One volume also contains list of grand jurors, findings of grand jury, and recommendations.

Series 346 - Order and Judgment Journal 1904-1960. 16 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which constitute the official record (transcription) of judges' orders and decrees, as well as findings of facts and conclusions of law, in criminal and civil cases, and in administrative matters such as license transfers. This series also includes allowance orders, or court-awarded payments for witnesses, interpreters, public utilities, law book publishers, equipment repair and maintenance, and other services.

Series 343 - Civil Docket 1900-1959. 18 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which constitute a docket of civil actions brought before the court. Each entry consists of a numbered case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken and fees paid. The first eight volumes include records of court fee payments.

Series 345 - Criminal Docket 1900-1959. 7 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which constitute a docket of criminal actions brought before the court. Each entry consists of a case caption, numbered by page or case number, followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken and fees paid.

Series 347 - Judgment Docket 1900-1951. 4 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of orders and judgments made by the court. Each entry consists of a case caption, numbered by page number, followed by record information including name of judgment debtors and creditors, amount of judgment, dates of recording appeals, decision on appeal, date of execution, and satisfaction.

Series 429 - Civil Case Files 1957-1959. 2 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by civil actions brought before the district court. Each case file may contain such legal instruments as complaint, response, motions, writs, affidavits, depositions, subpoenas, summaries of testimony, evidence in support of parties' claims, correspondence related to individual cases, and final determination and order.

Series 356 - Case Exhibits. 2 volumes.

These records consist of two volumes associated with two unidentified cases. One volume is a record book of Freeman G. Riddle, Secretary of the Universal Mining Company, Washington, D.C. The volume contains telegrams, correspondence, orders and receipts dating 1905-1906, pasted to sheets of the volume. The other volume is a record of shareholders of an unidentified company. The record covers the period 1912-1914 and includes an alphabetical index to the individual shareholders.

Series 350 - Name Indexes 1900-1959. 6 volumes.

The clerk of the court was responsible for maintaining records of civil and criminal actions brought before the court. The records were customarily maintained in a chronological journal cross-referenced to a numerical docket. The volumes in this series represent indexes to names of plaintiffs and defendants appearing in actions brought before the court. The indexes show names, character of the cause, case number, and docket (volume) number of filing.

Series 351 - Admiralty Records 1900-1960. 3 volumes.

The clerk of the court maintained these volumes which record cases in admiralty (maritime law) brought before the court. In general the cases represent claims ("libels") made against ships, and against mercantile companies as ships' agents. The volumes, consisting of a register (docket), journal and bond record, show a record of actions taken, parties to action, proctors (counsel), kind of action, date of filings, record of fees and monies paid in settlement, and record of bonds posted by defendants to release ships from a marshal's custody or judgments providing for the sale of ships.

Series 348 - Term Minutes 1900-1914. 4 cu. ft.

The clerk maintained minutes of special and general terms of this court. Minutes record daily actions of the court and give a brief description of actions taken by parties, as well as court decisions rendered. Both civil and criminal suits are documented. The first volume contains minutes of term sessions in court at Nome and Saint Michael, June - September 1900, and at minutes of special terms at Saint Michael until 1905.

Series 354 - Jury Records 1900-1960. 10 volumes.

The clerk maintained three types of records relating to jury proceedings and functions. The volumes are combined in one series for user convenience. The first record type includes jury books which record on a monthly basis jury lists, attendance for regular and special petit and grand juries, and amount paid individual jurors. The second type of volumes records transcribed and endorsed indictments presented by regular and special juries. The third type of record maintained by the clerk dockets preliminary examinations conducted by United States commissioners pending grand jury action.

Series 349 - Commissioner Reports 1900-1960. 3 volumes.

The court was responsible for administrative oversight of United States commissioners assigned to precincts within the second district. These volumes consist of periodic reports made to the district court by commissioners in outlying precincts.

Series 362 - Bankruptcy Records 1903-1978. 2 cu. ft.

These records consist of draft copies of quarterly and annual reports made to the United States Department of Justice on status of bankruptcy cases before the court. The reports cover the period 1903-1937. Also included are seven case files initiated between 1926 and 1937. The case files may include statements of assets, referee's files, claims and settlements.

Series 352 - Bond Records 1900-1959. 8 volumes.

These volumes record civil and criminal bonds filed with the clerk of the district court. Both the United States commissioner's court and the district court itself submitted bonds for filing. The bonds are transcribed from original legal instruments. RELATED SERIES: Series 341, Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1907-1958, for original civil bond instruments for the years 1900-1922.

Series 360 - Business and Occupational Registers 1900-1975. 24 volumes.

In addition to its judicial duties, the federal district court at Nome was responsible for various administrative functions. One was the regulation of persons doing business in the second district. The court issued business licenses; licensed and registered professionals such as doctors, dentists, attorneys, and notaries; and recorded foreign and domestic corporations operating in the district. During Prohibition (1918-1932) the court issued pure alcohol purchase permits. Business license record information includes type of license, name of applicant, date of application, type of business, transfer of license, and yearly fee payments. Professional registrations include name of applicant, supporting documents such as affidavits, and copies of certifications. Corporation records show names of corporation, articles of incorporation, and records of submission of annual corporate reports.

Series 367 - Corporation Reports 1900-1973. 40 cu. ft.

The congressional act of 1900, which provided for civil government in Alaska, required corporations doing business in Alaska to file articles of incorporation with the Alaska secretary of state and with each divisional court where the company had business interests. The records filed with the clerk contain articles of incorporation, certificates of consent, annual reports or statements of liabilities; assets and corporation stock; notarized certificates of local agents and in some cases dissolution papers for foreign and domestic corporations doing business in the second division.

Series 357 - Execution Docket 1900-1960. 3 volumes.

The clerk maintained a docket of actions in civil suits pending marshal's return. Upon the docket the clerk noted parties to a suit, date of execution, date of judgment, amount of judgment, date delivered to marshal and evidence of service, marshal's fees, and nature of the return.

Series 361 - Letter Books 1901-1908. .5 cu. ft.

The volumes comprise a record of letters sent by the clerk. The record reflects administrative matters, such as acknowledgement of receipt of reports, transmittal of reports to the United States Department of Justice, business license collections, corporation filing and requests for action by the United States attorney and United States marshal.

Series 355 - Account Records 1891-1912. 6 volumes.

This series includes both journals and ledgers showing specific accounts and the transactions affecting those accounts. The journals show daily cash receipts and cash balances. The ledgers assign incoming monies to a variety of account categories (license fees, particularly from class "A" businesses; fees for admission to the bar, etc.) They also record expenditures from these funds for purposes such as salaries, refunds, and courthouse construction. Reference is made to individual vouchers. After 1905 a new accounting system shows a running account of both accounts payable and receivable.

Series 341 - Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1900-1959. 11 cu. ft.

This series has been compiled from incomplete and fragmentary records relating to the administrative activities of the district court. These activities included reporting periodically to federal authorities, aiding foreign nationals in becoming citizens, serving as district land office, responding to public inquiries, certifying notaries, recording marriages, granting business licenses, admitting professionals to practice, recording armed forces discharges, and administering court personnel functions and office operations. Record types include letters, reports, forms, and legal instruments.

Series 359 - United States Commissioners Records 1899-1960. 98 volumes.

The clerk of the district court acquired records from defunct United States commissioners. These records included civil dockets, criminal dockets, probate journals, probate dockets and other related probate volumes. The records from defunct offices were maintained together with distinct runs for civil, criminal and probate cases where possible. Case files for the cases docketed within these volumes are organized in other series according to type of case. Volumes from the following commissioner precincts are included: Cape Nome, Council City, Fairhaven (Candle), Kougarak, Koyuk (Haycock), Port Clarence (Teller), and Saint Michael. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions, and insanity hearings are closed except by order of the court.

Series 363 - United States Commissioners Civil Cases 1914-1958. 3.5 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by civil court actions brought before United States commissioners. Each case file may contain complaint, response, and court judgment and order; affidavits, subpoenas, evidence in support of parties' claims, summaries of testimony, and accounting of court costs and fees.

Series 353 - Commissioners Criminal Cases 1910-1960. 12 cu. ft.

The records consist of case files of criminal charges brought before United States Commissioners. Each case file may contain arraignment of defendant, defendant's answer, pleadings and court documents showing disposition of case, and fees and fines assessed against the defendant. Records relating to juveniles are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 365 - Insanity Hearing Case Files 1905-1959. 2 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by United States commissioners consist of case files relating to certification of persons as insane. The records were subsequently filed with the district court clerk. Record types consist of reports of initial inquiry, appointment of counsel, report of the disposition of the case, statements of jury and witness costs and fees, and related correspondence. Records appear to be principally those of the Cape Nome and Wade Hampton precincts. Records relating to insanity hearings are restricted.

Series 364 - Coroner's Case Files 1900-1959. 3.5 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by United States commissioners relate to presumptions of death of missing persons, coroner's inquests, and burial of paupers. The commissioners filed these records with the district court clerk on a regular basis. Types of records include original legal instruments, texts and summaries of inquest testimony, letters sent and received which relate to individual cases, and accounts of witness, juror, burial, and other court costs and fees. Records are organized into case files. The records are principally those of the Cape Nome precinct, but records from other precincts are interfiled.

Series 366 - Commissioner Miscellaneous Files 1919-1956. 2 inches.

These records were maintained by the United States Commissioner of the Wade Hampton election district as part of the commissioner's responsibilities as ex officio justice of the peace. The records were subsequently filed with the district court clerk. They consist of records relating to one child custody case, and to authorized search parties for missing persons. Record types include petitions, authorizations, reports, statements of costs and fees, vouchers, and related correspondence. Records relating to juveniles and adoptions are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 358 - United States Marshal Criminal and Civil Docket 1904-1951. 2 volumes.

The marshal maintained a docket of actions taken in executing court orders. The information recorded in the docket includes the marshal's sequential docket number, reference to court case number, name of defendant, nature of violation in criminal cases, nature of the writ, date of writ, date of receipt by marshal, marshal's fees, and expenses and remarks.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, THIRD DIVISION
RECORD GROUP 508

Federal legislation established the Third Division in 1900, with its court at Eagle City. In 1909 the Third Division was reconstituted to comprise southcentral and western Alaska. The court headquarters were located at Valdez, but were transferred to Anchorage in 1943.

As in other divisions, commissioners were assigned to what were variously called recording districts, election districts, or precincts. The commissioners reported to the clerk of the district court.

The following Third Division precincts or communities were served by commissioners whose records have been accessioned by the archives:

Aleutian Islands
Cold Bay
Kodiak (1900-1902; see Record Group 506)
Sand Point
Unalaska
Unga (see also Record Group 506 for records from 1897-1902)
Valdez (1901-1902; see Record Group 506)

Series 453 - Incorporation Records 1902-1935. 5 volumes.

This series consists of articles of incorporation and related documents (amendments, statements of condition, and designation and consent of agents) filed with the clerk of the district court in Valdez. Articles of foreign and domestic corporations are interfiled in bound volumes. A separate list of foreign corporations, numbered 1-90, is at the end of the first volume (1902-1914). Corporations are also indexed alphabetically for each volume except "No. 2" (1918-1924).

Series 454 - Incorporation Docket 1899-1943. 3 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of incorporations filed with the clerk of the district court at Valdez. Each entry includes docket number, corporation name, date of incorporation, principal corporation office, description of legal instruments filed, and date of filings. Each volume contains an alphabetic index of corporation names.

Series 409 - Commissioners Records 1902-1955. 16 volumes.

These records include civil dockets, criminal dockets and journal, and probate dockets and related volumes. The records from United States commissioner courts are maintained together in district runs for civil, criminal and probate case when possible. Case files for the cases docketed within these volumes are organized in other series according to type of case. Volumes for the following commissioner precincts are included: Aleutian Island-Peninsula (Unalaska) and Unga-Peninsula (Unga and Cold Bay). Records relating to minors, adoptions, and insanity hearings are restricted except by order of the court.

Series 410 - Commissioner Case Files 1918-1957. 1.33 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by actions brought before the United States commissioners at Unga and Unalaska. Types of action include civil and criminal complaints, probated estates, and inquests. Case files may contain such records types as complaint, response, affidavits, depositions, letters sent and received which relate to the case, and judgment and order.

Series 411 - Commissioner Insanity and Juvenile Records 1929-1957. .33 cu. ft.

These records, maintained by United States commissioners as ex officio justices of the peace at Unga and Unalaska, consist of case files relating to certifications of persons as insane, and to various matters concerning juveniles. Record types include original legal instruments, letters sent and received which relate to individual cases, and report of disposition of the case. Records relating to juveniles, adoption, and insanity are restricted.

Series 413 - Commissioner Reports 1912-1953. .33 cu. ft.

Commissioners in outlying precincts made periodic reports to the clerk of the appropriate district court. These records represent quarterly financial reports made by commissioners at Unga and Unalaska between 1912 and 1953. The reports show fees accepted by commissioners in fulfillment of their various duties. Standard forms show dollar totals for fees earned, fines and forfeitures received, and disbursements. An accompanying "memorandum schedule" identifies, by case title or name of party, the actions to which the fees were applied.

Series 414 - Commissioner Correspondence Files 1929-1958. .66 cu. ft.

This series consists of miscellaneous correspondence files maintained by United States commissioners at Unga and Unalaska. Both incoming and outgoing letters and memoranda are included, but most of the records are outgoing letters from two commissioners at Unalaska between 1933 and 1946. The files include letters to and from federal and territorial officials, residents of the Aleutian Island precinct, and personal friends and business associates.

Series 412 - Commissioner Miscellaneous Administrative Records 1931-1956. 1 cu. ft.

This series has been compiled from incomplete and occasionally fragmentary records relating to the administrative activities of the United States commissioners at Unga and Unalaska. These activities included supervising elections; enforcing fish and game laws; registering gill net locations; aiding foreign nationals in becoming citizens; serving as land registrar; issuing motor vehicle licenses and liquor stamps; registering mining claims, mortgages, and payments, powers of attorney, and boat ownership; collecting taxes; and registering births, marriages and deaths. Other informal activities included insurance sales. A small number of records relating to the Unalaska Municipal Council (1942-1945) are also included. Record types include letters, reports, forms and legal instruments.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FOURTH DIVISION RECORD GROUP 509

Federal legislation created three district court divisions in 1900. The court of the Third Division, located at Eagle City, had administrative responsibility for interior Alaska. The court of the new division was transferred to Fairbanks in 1903. In 1909, the division was renamed the Fourth Division but still comprised interior and northeast Alaska.

The 1900 legislation had provided for additional commissioners, who were assigned to what were variously called recording districts, election districts or precincts. Commissioners reported to the clerk of the district court.

The following Fourth Division communities were served by commissioners whose records have been accessioned by the archives:

Chandalar	Manley Hot Springs (Rampart)
Chatanika	Nenana
Circle	Nulato
Dome	Otter
Eagle	Rampart
Fairbanks	Ruby
Fortymile	Tanana
Kantishna	Wiseman (Koyukuk)
Koyukuk	

Series 415 - Journal 1900-1960. 81 volumes.

These volumes constitute the official record of legal proceedings generated in civil and criminal cases brought before the court. The journal includes judgments and orders issued by the court, in addition to orders of appointment and reports from United States commissioners in the Fourth Division. The series also includes journals of special sessions of the District Court held at Ruby (1913-1920) and Iditarod/Flat (1911-1926).

Series 416 - Civil Docket 1900-1959. 4 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of civil actions brought before the court. Each entry consists of a numbered case caption followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken, judgments or orders issued and fees paid.

Series 419 - Criminal Docket 1900-1957. 6 volumes.

These volumes constitute a docket of criminal actions brought before the court, both in its regular sessions at Fairbanks and in special sessions at Iditarod (1911-1924). Each entry consists of a case caption, numbered by page or case number, followed by a listing by date of actions undertaken with regard to that case.

Series 417 - Judgment Docket 1901-1961. 3 volumes, 2 cu. ft.

These volumes constitute a docket of judgments made by the court. Each entry consists of a sequentially-numbered case caption, followed by record information including names of judgment debtors and creditors, amount of judgment, dates of recording, appeals, decision on appeals, date of execution, and satisfaction. This series consists of district court judgment dockets, an index to judgments (loose pages only, 1901 and 1906), judgments from Fourth Division commissioners, and clerk's receipt of service to United States marshals.

Series 422 - Miscellaneous Dockets 1902 - 1960. 3 volumes.

The clerk maintained several dockets which appear to have been in use principally during James Wickersham's tenure on the bench. Three volumes were titled bench dockets; whether the bench placed special importance on these cases or not is unclear from the records. One volume titled Equity Bench Docket lists case dockets transcribed from the civil docket. A Criminal Bench Docket lists primarily criminal cases transferred to the District Court from United States commissioners courts in the fourth division between 1906 and 1909. A third volume titled Common Law Bench Docket, continues the docketing of transferred cases in 1917 and carries forward until 1960.

Series 418 - Civil Case Files 1917-(1950-1960). 63.5 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by civil actions brought before the district court. Each case file may contain such legal instruments as complaint, response, motions, writs, affidavits, subpoenas, summaries of testimony, evidence in support of parties' claims, and correspondence relating to individual cases. Approximately twelve Fairbanks mortgage foreclosures from 1917-1950 are filed separately within this series. Most case files date from the period 1950-1960.

Series 420 - Criminal Case Files 1931-(1955-1960). 10.5 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by criminal actions brought before the district court. Each case file may contain such legal instruments as complaints, warrants, subpoenas, undertakings for bail, witness statements, summaries of testimony, and correspondence relating to individual cases. Most records are from the period 1955-1959.

Series 423 - Trial Calendar 1899-1908. 1 volume.

The clerk maintained a volume which constituted a calendar of cases docketed for hearing during a current session. The calendar listed the cases to be tried and recorded disposition of the cases.

Series 424 - Grand Jury Reports 1926-1928. .5 cu. ft.

These records consist of narrative reports by grand jury foremen to the district court judge, summarizing a jury's activities during a specific term. Contained in each report are statistics relating to types of cases heard and actions taken, as well as reports of investigations undertaken by the jury. Copies of a judge's instructions to the jury may be included with the term reports.

Series 425 - Appointments 1910-1959. 1 volume.

This volume consists of transcribed orders of appointments and oaths of court officials for the fourth division. Prior to this volume appointment orders were transcribed into the court journal.

Series 421 - Business and Corporation Dockets 1900-1979. 8 volumes.

In addition to its judicial duties, the federal district court at Fairbanks was responsible for various administrative functions, including the regulation of persons doing business in the fourth division. The court issued business licenses; licensed and registered professionals, such as doctors, dentists and attorneys; and recorded foreign and domestic corporations' articles of incorporations. The business license record includes name, type of business, license number and amount paid. A second volume of licenses includes only applications for beer and liquor licenses. The corporation dockets show names of corporations and subsequent filings of amendments to articles of incorporation or annual reports.

Series 426 - Commissioners Records 1898-1960. 52 volumes, 6 cu. ft.

The clerk of the district court acquired records from defunct United States commissioners. These records included civil dockets, criminal dockets, probate journals and related probate volumes. The volumes from defunct offices were maintained together with distinct runs for civil, criminal and probate cases where possible. Case files for cases docketed within these volumes are organized in other series according to type. Volumes from the following commissioner precincts are included: Fairbanks, Chatanika, Chandelar, Circle, Dome, Eagle, Fortymile, Kautishna, Koyukuk (Wiseman), Nenana, Otter, Rampart (Manley Hot Springs), Ruby, and Tanana. Records relating to juveniles, adoptions and insanity hearings are closed except by order of the court.

Series 427 - Commissioner Case Files 1903-1961. 75.5 cu. ft.

These records consist of case files generated by civil and criminal court actions brought before United States commissioners of the Fourth Division. Each civil case file may contain such legal instruments as complaint, response, affidavits, subpoenas, evidence in support of parties' claims, summaries of testimony, related correspondence, court judgment and order, and accounts of court fees and costs. Criminal case files may contain arraignment of defendant, defendant's answer, pleadings, court documents showing disposition of the case, related correspondence, and fees and fines assessed against defendant. A small number of miscellaneous commissioner records, principally quarterly administrative reports from outlying precincts, are interfiled within this series. Records exist for the following precincts: Fairbanks 1903-1961, Circle 1903, Chatanika 1914-1919, Nenana 1917-1959, Nulato 1953-1957, and Wiseman/Koyukuk 1915-1925.

Series 428 - Marshal Docket 1900-1917. 2 volumes.

The clerk of the court acquired these volumes which constitute dockets of services performed by deputy United States marshals at Circle, Chena, and Fairbanks. The volumes record case action required and services rendered by the deputy marshalls in addition to reflecting fees received. The volumes include services in both civil and criminal cases.