Form of material and dates: ca. 1938-1983. Chiefly the professional papers of Lawrence W. I'Anson, Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals from 1974 to 1981, and a member of that body beginning in 1958. The papers pertain primarily to his professional career, and include correspondence, certificates of award, programs of events he attended, newspaper clippings detailing major events in his life, magazine articles on him and his profession, speeches given by him and others, articles on the American judicial system, and bound and unbound volumes detailing some aspect of the same. Also included are photographic prints of certain events in I'Anson's career from the 1940s to the 1980s, as well as three scrapbooks prepared by I'Anson or others reflecting part or all of his career.
Lawrence I'Anson Papers

Lawrence I'Anson
Biographical Sketch

1928 Graduated (A.B.) from the College of William and Mary
1931 Took Law Degree (LL.B.) from University of Virginia.
1933 5 August. Married to Mary Frances Tuttle of Richmond.
1939-41 Attorney for the Commonwealth, Portsmouth, Va.
1941 Appointed Judge of Court of Hustings for Portsmouth.
1947 Named "First Citizen of Portsmouth"
1958 Appointed to Virginia Supreme Court by Governor Almond
1971 Headed Court Study Commission appointed by governor.
1974 Elevated by virtue of seniority to Chief Justice of Virginia Supreme Court.
1979 Elected President of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, Va.

SOURCES: Virginia Lives; internal evidence in the papers.
Lawrence I'Anson
Series Description

Box 1

Folder 1 - Biographical sketch prepared by I'Anson in 1958.
Folders 2-21 - Professional and personal correspondence.
Folders 22-23 - Invitations and programs to functions honoring I'Anson.
Folder 24 - Programs to judicial functions which I'Anson attended.
Folders 25-39 - Speeches by I'Anson.
Folder 40 - Speeches by Lewis F. Powell, U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
Folder 41 - "State Justice Institute Act of 1979"
Folders 43-44 - Judicial opinions by I'Anson and others.
Folders 45-48 - Reports and articles of the Va. Supreme Court and Judicial System.
Folder 49 - Certificates of award
Folders 50-73 - Newspaper clippings
Folder 74 - Magazines containing articles on I'Anson.
Folder 75 - Programs from Conferences of Chief Justices.
Folder 76 - Published reports on the judicial system.
Folder 77 - Photographic prints of I'Anson's career.
Folder 78 - Felt letter from William and Mary.
TMss1-2 - Typed Manuscripts on Virginia Courts.

Box 2

PVs 1-4 - Printed Volumes on Judicial System
Scrapbooks - Three Scrapbooks of I'Anson's life and career.
I'ANSON, LAWRENCE (1907- )  
PAPERS, 1938-1983

Box I


Folder 2. 1958-1982. Miscellaneous correspondence of L.W. I'Anson of a personal nature, including a request for a biographical sketch and reply (1958); a request to edit an opinion (1967); a congratulatory letter to Harold Snead upon his retirement (1974); a personal letter from Warren Burger (1980); a notice of change in insurance policy (1980); a request to speak at 1981 Commencement, Marshall-Wythe (1981); a thank you letter (1981); a thank you note (1981); letter from West Publishing Company and I'Anson's reply (1981); a letter of appreciation; and a thank you letter (1976). 14 items.


Folder 4. 1979. Correspondence of I'Anson's concerning the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Virginia (1979). 7 items.

Folder 5. 1979. Correspondence of I'Anson concerning the "State Justice Institute Act of 1979" sponsored by Senator Howell Heflin. 5 items.

Folder 6. 1978-1981. Correspondence of I'Anson's concerning the National Center for State Courts. 5 items.

Folder 7. 1980. Correspondence of I'Anson's concerning I'Anson's Commencement Address at Dickens School of Law, June 1980. 4 items.


Folder 9. 23 December 1980. Correspondence responding to I'Anson's retirement and his replies. 16 items.

Folder 10. 24 December 1980. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and his replies. 16 items.

Folder 11. 26 December to 31 December 1980. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and his replies. 20 items.

Folder 12. 1 January to 7 January 1981. Correspondence
concerning I'Anson's retirement and replies. 24 items.

Folder 13. 8 January to 14 January 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and some replies. 18 items.

Folder 14. 15 January to 21 January 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and some replies. 7 items.

Folder 15. 21 January-28 January 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and replies. 15 items.

Folder 16. 29 January 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and replies. 5 items.

Folder 17. 30 January 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement. 21 items.

Folder 18. 1 February to 7 February 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement and replies. 13 items.

Folder 19. 8 February to 14 February 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement. 14 items.

Folder 20. 15 February to 16 April 1981. Correspondence concerning I'Anson's retirement. 13 items.


Folder 22. 1947-1983. Invitations to various functions honoring I'Anson. 6 items.

Folder 23. 1964-1983. Programs to various functions honoring I'Anson. 5 items.

Folder 24. 1979-1982. Programs to various functions which I'Anson either attended or at which he spoke. 14 items.

Folder 25. 1964. Speech by I'Anson made before the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, 21 March 1964. 1 item.

Folder 26. 1965. Speech by I'Anson before Norfolk-Portsmouth Bar Association, 5 February 1965, honoring 30 years service by John William Eggleston on Supreme Court. 2 items.


Folder 29. 1972. Two speeches made by I'Anson: 1) to the Judicial Conference at Fredericksburg, 19 October 1972; 2) before Virginia Bar Association meeting at the Greenbriar, 14 July 1972. 2 items.


Folder 31. 1974. Two speeches by I'Anson: 1) before Richmond Bar Association upon retirement of Chief Justice Sneed; 2) Address to attorney's admitted to the Bar, John Marshall Hotel, 1974. 2 items.


Folder 34. 1979. Two speeches by I'Anson commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Virginia (1979). 2 items.


Folder 39. n.d. Two speeches by I'Anson: 1) Presentation of Chief Justice Eggleston's portrait; 2) Presentation of Chief Justice Sneed's portrait. 2 items.


Folder 42. 1958-1981. Three lists of opinions delivered by I'Anson while on Supreme Court. 3 items.


Folder 44. n.d. Two opinions by judges other than I'Anson. 2 items.

Folder 45. c. 1970's. Various reports concerning the Supreme Court of Virginia and its history. 6 items.

Folder 46. 1965-1979. Three unbound journal articles on various topics of the judicial system. 4 items.

Folder 47. n.d. Seventeen-page typed resume on the workings of the Virginia Supreme Court, probably authored by I'Anson. 1 item.

Folder 48. n.d. Reports on various topics: 1) National Center for State Courts; 2) Oscar Lane Shewmake, 1882-1963; and 3) Early William and Mary Law School graduates. 3 items.

Folder 49. 1936-1985. Various certificates awarded to I'Anson. 8 items. See also medium-oversize file.

Folder 50. 23 January 1938. Xerox of newspaper clipping showing I'Anson as Commonwealth Attorney. 1 item.

Folder 51. 1947. Newspaper clippings on I'Anson being named Portsmouth's First Citizen. 3 items. See also medium-oversize file.

Folder 52. 1947. Newspaper clippings on I'Anson's activities. 2 items.

Folder 53. 1950's. Miscellaneous clippings on I'Anson's activities in the 1950's. 3 items.

Folder 54. 1954. Newspaper clippings on I'Anson's appointment to Virginia Supreme Court. 7 items. See also medium-oversize file.

Folder 55. 1959. Newspaper clippings on Virginia Supreme Court's overturning of segregation. 1 item. See medium-oversize file.

Folder 56. 1964. Newspaper clippings on various honors given I'Anson. 4 items.

Folder 57. 1963. Newspaper articles concerning the closing of
Prince Edward County schools and the Supreme Court's ruling thereon. 5 items. See also medium-oversize file.

Folder 58. 1968-1974. Newspaper clippings on reform of Virginia Court system and I'Anson's role in it. 10 items. See also medium-oversize file.


Folder 60. 1974. Newspaper clippings concerning I'Anson's succession as Chief Justice. 16 items. Also see medium-oversize file.


Folder 63. 1976. Newspaper clippings on miscellaneous activities by I'Anson in 1976. 2 items. See also medium-oversize file.

Folder 64. 1978. Newspaper clippings on opening of National Center for State Courts. 5 items. Also see medium-oversize file.

Folder 65. 1978. Newspaper clippings on various of I'Anson's activities in 1978. 3 items. See also medium-oversize file.


Folder 67. 1979. Newspaper clippings concerning Charter Day and Law Day ceremonies in 1979 at which I'Anson was present. 2 items. See medium-oversize file.

Folder 68. 1979. Newspaper clippings concerning I'Anson's appointment as president of Board of Directors of National Center for State Courts. 4 items.


Folder 70. 1980. Newspaper clippings on I'Anson's honors and activities. 5 items. See also medium-oversize file.


Folder 72. 1981-1983. Newspaper clippings concerning honors given I'Anson after his retirement. 12 items. Also see
Folder 73. n.d. Newspaper clippings on the judicial system. 2 items.


Folder 77. 1941-1981. Photographs of I'Anson at various functions. 28 items. Also see medium-oversize file.

Folder 78. c. 1924? Felt letter from the College of William and Mary. Yellow with white outline. 1 item.

1941. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, swearing in of I'Anson as Hustings court judge. Inscription on frame reads, "Judge K.A. Bain administering oath Lawrence I'Anson as Judge of the Court of Hustings for the city of Portsmouth - June 1941. 1 item. (P1)

1947. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, waist-up view showing I'Anson (in middle) receiving First Citizen's Award for Portsmouth, Va. Two unidentified men flank him. 1 item. (P2)

c. 1950's. Photographic, print 8"x 10". black and white, group of well-dressed men and women ascending steps of a building. Policeman guards gate through which they walk. 1 item. (P3)

1 Sept. 1968. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson's swearing in at Va. Supreme Court. Portrait of distinguished elderly gentleman in background. 1 item. (P4)

Sept. 29, 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of Clyde Cooper, President of Portsmouth Bar Assoc., presenting present with new robe for duties on Supreme Court. 1 item. (P5)

Sept. 1, 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and four other judges, in robes, at I'Anson's swearing in. Second from left is Chief Justice
Eggleston. 1 item. (P6)

Sept. 1, 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of Gov. Almond shaking I'Anson's hand at I'Anson's swearing in. Chief Justice Eggleston looks on. 1 item. (P7)

c. 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and Chief Justice Eggleston, both in robes, and standing in front of bookcases. 1 item. (P8)

1 Sept. 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of the swearing in of I'Anson by Chief Justice Eggleston; Robert McMurren, Clerk of the Court of Hustings, holds the Bible; Gov. Almond looks on. 1 item. (P9)

1 Sept. 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and Chief Justice Eggleston on the occasion of I'Anson's swearing in. 1 item. (P10)

1 Sept. 1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and four other judges at his swearing in. Chief Justice Eggleston second from left. 1 item. (P11)

1958. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson looking at the certificate appointing him a Justice of Virginia Supreme Court. 1 item. (P12)

c. 1960. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson receiving Phi Beta Kappa plaque from unidentified man. 1 item. (P13)

1964. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, full body view of I'Anson and Mary. Two men flank him. All three are in full academic regalia. Taken by Thomas L. Williams. 1 item. (P14)

1964. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, full body view of I'Anson about to receive honorary doctorate from William and Mary. Two men flank him; all three are in academic regalia. Taken by Thomas L. Williams. 1 item. (P15)

1975. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, upper body view of Governor Godwin, Mrs. I'Anson, and I'Anson at the head table at the Chief Justices Conference at the Homestead, July 1975. 1 item. (P16)

c. late 1970's. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, view of the Virginia Supreme Court Justices in the Conference Room. I'Anson is Chief Justice. 1 item. (P17)

c. late 1970's. Photographic print, 8"x 10", black and white, group picture of Chief Justices of United State at annual meeting. I'Anson seated first row, fourth from left, next to U.S. Supreme
Court Justice Warren Burger. 1 item. (P18)

1978. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, I'Anson, Attorney General Griffen Bell, and two others seated in an 18th century horse drawn carriage at the opening of the National Center for State Courts. 1 item. (P19)

c. 1978. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, full view of the National Center for State Courts. 1 item. (P20)

c. 1978. Photographic print, 8" x 10", color, artist's rendering of the National Center for State Courts. 1 item. (P21)

1978. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson, Warren Burger, and unidentified other Chief Justice cutting the ribbon to open the National Center for State Courts. 1 item. (P22)

1978. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson, Governor Dalton, and two other men identified as Reardon and Holton. 1 item. (P23)

1979. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, I'Anson shaking hands with President Jimmy Carter at the White House. 1 item. (P24)


Late 1970's. Photographic print, 14" x 11", black and white, Virginia Supreme Court Justices in robes before a book case, I'Anson Chief Justice. 1 item. See medium-oversize file. (P26)

1980. Photographic print, 7 1/8" x 5", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and two other men at a dias at the Conference of Chief Justices, Anchorage, Alaska, 1980. 1 item. (P27)


c. 1980. Photographic print, 8" x 10", color, full body group shot at a Governor's Party for the Court. Retired Chief Justice Snead and Governor Dalton pictured along with I'Anson and others. 1 item. (P29)

1981. Photographic print, 8" x 10", black and white, upper body view of I'Anson and Jack Garret at the Burgesses Day Celebration at William and Mary. 1 item. (P30)

BOX II


Scrapbook. 1930-1981. Three scrapbooks of I'Anson's containing photographs, letters, and newspaper clippings. 3 items.