



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Jewish Conciliation Board of America Records
Manuscript Collection No. 501**

Jewish Conciliation Board of America, Inc.
225 BROADWAY NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

Collection Summary

Title	Jewish Conciliation Board of America Records
Dates	1920-1972
Collection Number	MS-501
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Jewish Conciliation Board of America Jewish Court of Arbitration
Extent	18.4 linear feet (46 Hollinger boxes)
Abstract	The Jewish Conciliation Board of America records detail the early years of the board, established in 1931 by Rabbi Israel Goldstein, replacing New York's Jewish Court of Arbitration. The Board, supported through contributions, served as a Jewish "domestic relations court." It conducted court sessions with various judges presiding on a voluntary basis. The collection consists of correspondence (1934-1959), case files (1949-1965), financial records (1950-1961), speeches and addresses (1939-1953), and reports and newsclippings (1920-1936). The pre-1930 material reflects the activities of the Jewish Court of Arbitration.

Language of the Material English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Founded in 1931 as a board of lay-persons and rabbis, the Jewish Conciliation Board sought to fill a void in American society of a Jewish issues court. The Board is a descendant of the Beth Din (a Jewish court of law) and as such is a free court allowing immigrants to avoid potentially costly litigation. Early leaders of the organization were Louis Richman and Dr. Israel Goldstein (founder of Brandeis University).

Publicity in the New York Yiddish press led to a steady increase in the number of cases by the 1960s. In 1964, the City Family Courts division was legally enabled to transfer "specifically Jewish cases" to the Board. Fundraising for additional staff was a continual concern for the organization. During its early years the Jewish Educational Alliance provided space for case hearings.

The Jewish Conciliation Board brought about a settlement of disputes using justice, compassion and benevolence. In its first 50 years of existence, the Board solved over 27,000 cases. Originally most cases related to rabbis, fraternal orders and burial societies. More recently the caseload has shifted to more family oriented cases. Disputants file a case before the board, and a full report is drawn up by the judges. Where applicable, referrals are made to governmental agencies or private organizations such as the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. If not, the Board acts as a mediator. Each panel includes a businessman, lawyer, and rabbi with consultation of psychiatrists. Panelists are volunteers, and mediation is not rigidly structured. Decisions are binding in accordance with the arbitration laws of New York State.

The Jewish Conciliation Board of America currently evaluates and mediates disputes within the Jewish community, including those involving interpersonal and family matters, marital problems, business conflicts, and disagreements among organizations. The program also provides legal information and referral to Russian-speaking émigrés with a focus on their special needs and concerns. The majority of disputants in cases come from New York State but the Board does not limit itself to New York residents.

Scope and Content The Jewish Conciliation Board of America records detail the early years of the board, established in 1931 by Rabbi Israel Goldstein, replacing New York's Jewish Court of Arbitration. The Board, supported through contributions, served as a Jewish "domestic relations court." It conducted court sessions with various judges presiding on a voluntary basis.

The vast majority of this collection consists of the case files of the Board. A typical case file includes a statement of grievance, reports compiled in the investigation of the complaint and a copy of the decision of the Court. Not all cases were actually sent in person to the Conciliation Board.

The annual reports give statistics about the cases processed and a sampling of a typical case. There is also correspondence from the Executive Director (1934-1959), financial records (1950-1961), speeches and addresses (1939-1953), reports and newsclippings, (1920-1936). The pre-1930 material reflects the activities of the Jewish Court of Arbitration.

Access Restrictions This collection is restricted. Access requires the permission of the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Jewish Conciliation Board of America Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-501. Jewish Conciliation Board of America Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from the Jewish Conciliation Board, New York, N.Y.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish courts
Corporate Names Jewish Court of Arbitration
Media Case files / Minutes

Series A. General, 1920-1972

Scope and Content Note The records consist primarily of case files, divided up alphabetically within broader categories such as "marked-off cases." Following the case records are reports, clippings and correspondence. Boxes 26-45 contain the most recent grouping of case files (from the 1960s) followed by annual meeting materials

Arrangement The papers are arranged into a single series divided by subject.

Container List

- Box 1. Finished cases, 1949-1953.
- Box 2. Finished cases, 1954-1955.
- Box 3. Finished cases, 1956-1957.
- Box 4. Finished cases, 1958-1959.
- Box 5. Finished cases, 1960.
- Box 6. Finished cases, 1961.
- Box 7. Marked-off cases. A-Blustein, 1954-1965.
- Box 8. Marked-off cases. Bobrow-D, 1954-1965.
- Box 9. Marked-off cases. E-F, 1954-1965.
- Box 10. Marked-off cases. Gab-Gran.
- Box 11. Marked-off cases. Green-L.
- Box 12. Marked-off cases. J-Kloner, 1954-1965.
- Box 13. Marked-off cases. Knob-L, 1954-1965.
- Box 14. Marked-off cases. M-N, 1954-1965.
- Box 15. Marked-off cases. O-R, 1954-1965.
- Box 16. Marked-off cases. Sa-Sm, 1954-1965.
- Box 17. Marked-off cases. Sobel - V, 1954-1965.
- Box 18. Marked-off cases, 1954-1965.
- Box 19. Social service cases. A-F.
- Box 20. Social service cases. G-L.
- Box 21. Social service cases. M-R.

Box 22. Social service cases. S-Z.

Box 23. Addresses and speeches. Harvard student report.

Box 24. Clippings from newspaper; inquiry letters.

Box 25. Financial records; law journal notices.

Box 26. John Hopkins University study; Premiss, Silvia R., correspondence, 1930-1954.

Box 27. Correspondence, 1955-1957.

Box 28. Correspondence, 1958-1959.

Box 29. Cases. A-Blank.

Box 30. Cases. Blatt- C.

Box 31. Cases. D-Feldman.

Box 32. Cases. Feldrais-Goidol.

Box 33. Cases. Gold-Gurman.

Box 34. Cases. Gut-J.

Box 35. Cases. K.

Box 36. Cases. L-Margolis.

Box 37. Cases. Marin-N.

Box 38. Cases. O-Romanoff.

Box 39. Cases. Romantz-Seidman.

Box 40. Cases Seidler-Steindler.

Box 41. Cases. Steiner-V.

Box 42. Cases. W-Z.

Box 43. Annual meeting. Reports, 1952-1958.

Box 44. Annual meeting. Reports, 1959-1966.

Box 45. Annual meetings. Reports, 1966-1972.

Box 46. Miscellaneous.