

Guide to the State of Arizona vs. State of California Proceedings Concerning the Colorado River Usage Dispute

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on April 28, 2025. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pc9h>

© 2025 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Background	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	United States. Supreme Court
Title:	State of Arizona vs. State of California Proceedings Concerning the Colorado River Usage Dispute
ID:	MS-00677
Date [inclusive]:	1957 to 1961
Physical Description:	0.92 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	0.83 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The State of Arizona vs. State of California Proceedings Concerning the Colorado River Usage Dispute collection (1957-1961) contains supplemental documents from the <i>Arizona v. California</i> Supreme Court case that began in 1931 and ended in 2000, including briefs, objections, requests for admissions of facts, rebuttal outlines, witness outlines, comments, and requested findings of facts.

Preferred Citation

State of Arizona vs. State of California Proceedings Concerning the Colorado River Usage Dispute, 1957-1961. MS-00677. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Background

The *State of Arizona vs. State of California* litigation was an ongoing legal battle occurring between 1931 and 2000 pertaining to land and water usage rights for several Southwest Native American nations and various states. It began in 1931 with *Arizona v. California* 283 U.S. 423, No. 19 Original, when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled the Boulder Canyon Act of 1928 constitutional. The Boulder Canyon Act of 1928 provided for the protection and development of the Colorado River Basin. Other states became involved, including Nevada as an intervener and New Mexico and Utah serving as parties to the case. During the 1950s and 1960s, Arizona called for "equitable

apportionment" of the waters of Colorado River, which became docket Nos. 9 and 10 Original. It was not until 1963, in the *Arizona v. California* 373 U.S. 546, No. 8 Original, that the Supreme Court made an initial ruling on the apportionment of the Colorado River waters. The cases that followed between 1964 and 2000 all pertain to apportionment concerns.

Sources:

"Arizona v. California." The United States Department of Justice. Accessed December 18, 2018. <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/arizona-v-california>

"Reclamation and Arizona." U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Reclamation. Accessed December 18, 2018. https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/AZ100/1960/supreme_court_AZ_vs_CA.html

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The State of Arizona vs. State of California Proceedings Concerning the Colorado River Usage Dispute collection (1957-1961) contains supplemental documents from the *Arizona v. California* Supreme Court case that began in 1931 and ended in 2000, including briefs, objections, requests for admissions of facts, rebuttal outlines, witness outlines, comments, and requested findings of facts.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Accession number: 2014-078.

Processing Note

The collection was minimally processed by Karla Irwin in 2014 at the time of accessioning. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Christina Lamoureux revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Colorado River Commission of Nevada Reference Library Collection, 1922-2000. MS-00427. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- North America -- Colorado River
- Water -- Law and legislation -- West (U.S.)
- Water rights

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
-------------------	------------

Proceedings, 1957 to 1961

box 01

box 02