



## Guide to the Claudine Williams Photograph Collection

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This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on June 09, 2025. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1zw95>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Williams, Claudine B.
<b>Title:</b>	Claudine Williams Photograph Collection
<b>ID:</b>	PH-00351
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 2007 to 2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.02 Cubic Feet (1 hanging file, 1 flat file (shared box))
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.20 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Claudine Williams Photograph Collection (approximately 2007-2009) consists of nine optical disks containing ninety-eight digital surrogate images dating between 1940 and 2000. The images primarily portray Claudine Williams in publicity images for various hotel and casinos Williams and her husband owned alongside prominent individuals, including Dean Martin, Hillary and Bill Clinton, and Robert Reich. Other images depict Williams in her youth and with her family members. Additional materials include images of Williams' business cards, articles in various Las Vegas and Nevada magazines and newspapers on Williams, and images of properties Williams operated.

### Preferred Citation

Claudine Williams Photograph Collection, approximately 2007-2009. PH-00351. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1zw95>

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## Biographical Note

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Claudine Barbara Williams was born in Mansfield, Louisiana on March 17, 1921. She moved to Dallas, Texas at a young age, and she began working in Benny Binion's casino nightclub. Williams

bought a steakhouse and casino in 1942, and the profits made helped fund her future business endeavors.

She married Shelby Williams on February 19, 1950 and they moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1964. They purchased the Silver Slipper Gambling Hall and Saloon, operating the property until they sold it to Howard Hughes in 1969. Williams and her husband took over the River Queen Casino in 1973, and renamed it the Holiday Casino. After her husband's death in 1977, Williams became the first woman casino president and general manager in Nevada gaming history.

Williams, along with several others, created the American Bank of Commerce. She became the first woman in Nevada history to chair a bank's board of directors. She also served on several government, business, and charity boards throughout her lifetime. In 1989, Williams helped establish a scholarship fund in her husband's name at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) College of Hotel Administration. She also personally donated funds to UNLV for a dormitory construction project. To honor Williams, UNLV named the residence hall after her, and in 1994, UNLV bestowed an honorary doctoral degree upon her.

Williams died on May 13, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source:

"Claudine Williams, 1921-2009." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Accessed on March 4, 2020. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/claudine-williams-1921-2009/>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Claudine Williams Photograph Collection (approximately 2007-2009) consists of nine optical disks containing ninety-eight digital surrogate images dating between 1940 and 2000. The images primarily portray Claudine Williams in publicity images for various hotel and casinos Williams and her husband owned alongside prominent individuals, including Dean Martin, Hillary and Bill Clinton, and Robert Reich. Other images depict Williams in her youth and with her family members. Additional materials include images of Williams' business cards, articles in various Las Vegas and Nevada magazines and newspapers on Williams, and images of properties Williams operated. There is only physical printed portrait photograph in the collection.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

In 2007 and 2009, Claudine Williams donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession numbers 2007-09 and 2009-019.

### Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Ryan DiPaolo wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

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

Claudine Williams Papers, 1965-2009. MS-00094. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Claudine Williams oral history interview, 1997 November 20. OH-03386. ] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- photographs
- Publicity
- Advertising -- Hotels
- Silver Slipper Gambling Hall and Saloon

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## Legacy Digital Media

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Materials consist of nine optical discs of digital surrogate photographs. The optical discs are all found in the hanging folder.

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## Missing Materials Note

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According to note with collection, 0351\_0043 and 0351\_0044 were "vacated" and are missing as of March 11, 2020.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Claudine Williams publicity photographs, personal photographs, and articles (0351_001-0351_098)	folder 01
Physical Description: 9 Optical Discs	oversized folder box 02 SH-086