

# Woman's Party Corporation Records

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm97084098>

Prepared by Donna Ellis

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Woman's Party Corporation Records

**Span Dates:** 1918-1998

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1985-1995)

**ID No.:** MSS84098

**Creator:** Woman's Party Corporation

**Extent:** 11,480 items ; 56 containers ; 24 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Women's rights organization. Correspondence, legal papers, financial records, bylaws, notes, and printed matter relating chiefly to litigation between the Woman's Party Corporation and its parent group, the National Woman's Party.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Organizations

National Woman's Party.

Woman's Party Corporation.

### Subjects

Actions and defenses--United States.

Education--United States--Societies, etc.

Nonprofit organizations--United States.

Tax exemption--United States.

Women--United States--Societies, etc.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation, a women's rights group, were given to the Library of Congress by the organization through its lawyer, Barbara J. Gorinson, in 1997.

### Processing History

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### Related Material

The Manuscript Division also holds the records of the [National Woman's Party](#).

### Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Woman's Party Corporation in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

### Access and Restrictions

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Woman's Party Corporation Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Organizational History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1916	National Woman's Party founded by Alice Paul
1977	Woman's Party Corp. established by National Woman's Party
1992	Internal Revenue Service investigation into the corporation's tax exempt status
1993	Attempted dissolution of the corporation by National Woman's Party Suit filed by the corporation in District of Columbia Superior Court against National Woman's Party
1997	Settlement agreement resulting in dissolution of Woman's Party Corp.

## Scope and Content Note

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation span the years 1918-1998 with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1985 and 1995. The records relate primarily to litigation between the Woman's Party Corporation and its parent group, the National Woman's Party (NWP), a suffrage and women's rights organization created by Alice Paul in 1916. In 1977, the NWP created the Woman's Party Corporation as a 501(c) organization, which could collect tax deductible contributions to finance the party's educational activities, including maintenance of the historic Sewall-Belmont house museum, which served as the party's headquarters. In 1992, an Internal Revenue Service investigation revealed that the tax-exempt corporation was providing funds to the National Woman's Party without proof that the money was being used for educational purposes rather than lobbying activities. At the same time, the party's executive board attempted to dissolve the corporation and appropriate its assets. The corporation filed suit in the District of Columbia Superior Court, and the party responded with a countersuit claiming breach of fiduciary responsibility. In 1997 the litigants reached an out-of-court settlement by which the corporation was dissolved and the party ceased its decades-long lobbying activities and became a non-profit, nonpolitical, educational organization eligible for 501(c) status.

The corporation's records are arranged in three series: [National Woman's Party Files](#), [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party](#), and [Miscellany](#). The [National Woman's Party Files](#) contain photocopied material obtained during the discovery process of the lawsuit, including the organization's bylaws and incorporation documents, correspondence, convention material, financial records, membership data, minutes, and publicity.

The [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party](#) series includes affidavits, background information, complaints, depositions, exhibits, interrogatories, motions, pleadings, and other legal documents relating to the case. Some of the background material contains the organizational records of the Woman's Party Corporation. Negotiations regarding the settlement agreement are also documented.

[Miscellany](#) contains depositions and other material from several lawsuits related to the *Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party* suit.

## Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995](#)
- [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998](#)

- Miscellany, 1993-1995

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-21	<b><u>National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995</u></b> Bylaws, correspondence, financial records, legal papers, minutes, publicity material, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 21-53	<b><u>Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998</u></b> Affidavits, background material, briefs, complaints, correspondence, depositions, documents, exhibits, notes, pleadings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 54-56	<b><u>Miscellany, 1993-1995</u></b> Briefs, correspondence, depositions, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by case name.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-21</b>	<b>National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995</b> Bylaws, correspondence, financial records, legal papers, minutes, publicity material, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Bylaws and incorporation, 1918, 1977-1991 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 1</b>	Chronological file
<b>BOX 1</b>	1952-1978 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 1</b>	1979 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	(2 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1980-1989 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1990 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	(2 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1991 (5 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1992 (1 folder)
<b>BOX 4</b>	(3 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1993-1994, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	Congressional testimony
<b>BOX 4</b>	Appropriations, 1976-1979, 1988
<b>BOX 5</b>	Equal rights amendment, 1972-1987, undated
<b>BOX 5</b>	Sewall-Belmont House, Washington, D.C., national historic site designation, 1974
<b>BOX 5</b>	Conventions
<b>BOX 5</b>	1964-1965, 1975-1991 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	1993
<b>BOX 6</b>	Financial records
<b>BOX 6</b>	Audits and financial statements, 1976-1993 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	Bank records
<b>BOX 6</b>	American Federal Savings and Loan Association, Washington, D.C., 1978-1979
<b>BOX 6</b>	American Security Bank, Washington, D.C., 1973-1993, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	Bank of Virginia, Springfield, Va., 1982-1986
<b>BOX 7</b>	Capital Holding Corp., Louisville, Ky., 1969-1980, undated
<b>BOX 7</b>	Interstate Federal Savings and Loan Association, Washington, D.C., 1978-1979, undated

## National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 7	Miscellany, 1993, undated
BOX 7	Prudential-Bache Co., Washington, D.C., 1981-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Women's National Bank, 1978-1985, undated
BOX 7	Bequests, 1974-1986
BOX 7	Contributions, 1977, 1988-1993
BOX 7	Dues to other organizations, 1976-1992, undated
BOX 7	Employment expenses
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1980-1993, undated
BOX 8	Part-time clerical services, 1974-1988, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Temporary services, 1977, 1985-1988
BOX 8	Equal rights amendment expenses, 1973-1985
BOX 8	Finance and Policy Committee, 1971, 1992, undated
BOX 8	Flowers, 1976-1994
BOX 8	Food and catering, 1973-1991, undated
BOX 8	Investment and Endowment Fund Committee
BOX 8	Audit reports, 1948-1949, 1958-1976 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1963-1972, 1992-1994
BOX 9	Reports, 1974-1983
BOX 9	Mailing expenses
BOX 9	Bulk mail, 1974-1993, undated
BOX 9	Federal Express, 1988-1993
BOX 9	Postal meter, 1974-1991, undated
BOX 9	United Parcel Service, 1977-1982, undated
BOX 9	Maintenance and repair
BOX 9	1974-1979 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1980-1992, undated
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	1977-1992 (6 folders)
BOX 11	1993, undated
BOX 11	Office equipment and supplies
BOX 11	Comet Office Equipment, 1982-1987
BOX 11	Ginns, 1981-1988 (3 folders)
BOX 11	Miscellany, 1973-1988
BOX 11	Pitney-Bowes, 1977-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Typewriters, 1983-1992
BOX 11	Washington Photocopy Corp., 1986-1993
BOX 12	Petty cash, 1978-1992
BOX 12	Printing expenses
BOX 12	IPI Graphics/Insta-Print, 1976-1992 (3 folders)

## National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 12	Miscellany, 1977-1993, undated
BOX 12	Newsletter, 1980-1992
BOX 12	Ron-Com Camera, 1977-1990, undated (2 folders)
BOX 13	Sales
BOX 13	Books, 1975-1989, undated (4 folders)
BOX 13	Jewelry, 1988-1993, undated
BOX 13	Miscellany, 1977, 1989-1993, undated
BOX 13	Storage, 1978-1990, undated (2 folders)
BOX 13	Taxes
BOX 13	Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return (940), 1972-1993
BOX 14	Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return (941), 1980-1992 (4 folders)
BOX 14	Employer's withholding tax, 1979-1991
BOX 14	Miscellany, 1971, 1981-1993
BOX 14	Return of Organization Exempt From Tax (990), 1953-1993
BOX 14	Telephone expenses
BOX 14	Allnet Communications Services
BOX 14	1985-1990
BOX 15	1991-1993, undated
BOX 15	American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 1985-1988, undated
BOX 15	Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co.
BOX 15	1981-1989 (6 folders)
BOX 16	1990-1993
BOX 16	Sprint, 1984-1985
BOX 16	Transportation, publicity, and meetings, 1978-1989 (2 folders)
BOX 16	<i>Washington Post</i> , 1985-1990
BOX 16	Insurance
BOX 16	1969-1985 (4 folders)
BOX 17	1986-1993, undated (4 folders)
BOX 17	Membership
BOX 17	Branches, 1968, 1977-1983, undated
BOX 17	Dues, 1967, 1974-1989, undated
BOX 17	Miscellany, 1945, 1981-1987, undated
BOX 17	Officers and board of directors, 1975-1995, undated
BOX 17	Recruitment and applications, 1972-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 18	1980-1991, undated
BOX 18	Terminations, 1993
BOX 18	Minutes

## National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 18	Board of directors
BOX 18	1985-1991 (5 folders)
BOX 19	1992-1993 (2 folders)
BOX 19	Executive Committee
BOX 19	1975-1987 (6 folders)
BOX 20	1988-1992, undated (2 folders)
BOX 20	National council, 1961-1962, 1974-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Miscellany
BOX 20	Appraisals and inventories, 1976, 1984, undated
BOX 20	Florence Bayard Hilles Library, Washington, D.C., 1944, 1975-1982, undated
BOX 20	Publicity, 1959-1964, 1976-1994, undated
BOX 20	Sewall-Belmont House, Washington, D.C., 1922-1929, 1972-1981, undated
BOX 20	Paul, Alice, birthday celebration
BOX 20	1977-1984
BOX 21	1985-1992 (4 folders)
BOX 21-53	<b>Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998</b> Affidavits, background material, briefs, complaints, correspondence, depositions, documents, exhibits, notes, pleadings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 21	Background information
BOX 21	Charitable trust research, 1986-1998, undated (3 folders)
BOX 22	Griffith, Sharon, 1981-1993, undated
BOX 22	Miscellany, 1957, 1993-1996, undated
BOX 22	Paredes, Jesse L., 1992-1995, undated
BOX 22	Relevant case law, undated (4 folders)
BOX 23	(4 folders)
BOX 23	Sewall-Belmont House, Washington, D.C., 1993
BOX 23	Woman's Party Corporation records
BOX 23	1918, 1973-1991 (2 folders)
BOX 24	1992-1993 (9 folders)
BOX 25	1994-1995, undated
BOX 25	Depositions
BOX 25	Avery, Kathryn C., 1994
BOX 25	Bruner, Ruth Oltman, 1994
BOX 25	Burton, Delores, 1994

## Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 26	Eastwood, Mary O., 1994 (3 folders)
BOX 27	(1 folder)
BOX 27	Gereau, Gerald Robert, 1994 (2 folders)
BOX 28	Gereau, Mary Condon, 1994 (3 folders)
BOX 29	(1 folder)
BOX 29	Griffith, Sharon, 1994 (2 folders)
BOX 30	(1 folder)
BOX 30	Mayo, Edith, 1994 (2 folders)
BOX 31	McClendon, Sarah, 1994
BOX 31	Miscellany, 1994-1995
BOX 31	National Woman's Party, 1994-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 32	(2 folders)
BOX 32	Osborn, Ruth Helm, 1994
BOX 32	Shriner, Sara G., 1994
BOX 32	Tierney, Karline K., 1994 (1 folder)
BOX 33	(1 folder)
BOX 33	Tripiciano, Annette, 1994
BOX 33	Discovery
BOX 33	Correspondence, 1994-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 33	Interrogatories
BOX 33	First set, 1994-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 34	Phase I, 1994-1995
BOX 34	Phase II, 1995
BOX 34	Second set, 1995
BOX 34	Unidentified, 1993-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 34	Miscellany, 1994-1995
BOX 34	Motions, 1994-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 35	(3 folders)
BOX 35	Not produced, 1979-1995, undated (3 folders)
BOX 36	(3 folders)
BOX 36	Requests for production of documents, 1994-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 36	Documents
BOX 36	Set 1, 1918, 1947, 1960, 1974-1994, undated (2 folders)
BOX 37	(7 folders)

## Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 38	Set 2, 1973-1994, undated (7 folders)
BOX 39	(8 folders)
BOX 40	(8 folders)
BOX 41	(5 folders)
BOX 41	Set 3, 1991-1993, undated (3 folders)
BOX 42	Set 4, 1993-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 42	Set 5, 1992-1993
BOX 42	Set 6, 1961, 1988-1989
BOX 42	Exhibits for the plaintiff
BOX 42	1993 (3 folders)
BOX 43	1994 (2 folders)
BOX 43	1995 (1 folder)
BOX 44	(1 folder)
BOX 44	Undated (2 folders)
BOX 45	(1 folder)
BOX 45	General case material
BOX 45	Affidavits, 1993-1994, undated (6 folders)
BOX 46	Complaints, 1993-1994 (2 folders)
BOX 46	Correspondence, 1979-1996, undated (2 folders)
BOX 46	Lawyer's notes and drafts, 1993-1998, undated
BOX 46	Memoranda and orders
BOX 46	1993
BOX 47	1995
BOX 47	Miscellany, 1993-1995, undated
BOX 47	Motions
BOX 47	1993 (2 folders)
BOX 47	1994 (2 folders)
BOX 48	(1 folder)
BOX 48	1995-1996, undated (5 folders)
BOX 48	Pleadings, 1993-1996
BOX 48	Miscellany
BOX 48	Vol. 1
BOX 49	Vols. 2-4
BOX 50	Vols. 5-7
BOX 51	Vols. 8-10

## Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998

### *Container*

### *Contents*

---

BOX 52	Vols. 11-13
BOX 53	Settlement, 1992-1997, undated (8 folders)
BOX 54-56	<b>Miscellany, 1993-1995</b> Briefs, correspondence, depositions, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by case name.
BOX 54	Avery v. Felt, 1995
BOX 54	Bonner & O'Connell v. Aubinoe, 1993
BOX 54	Gereau v. Ferrell-Gevinson
BOX 54	Depositions, 1994
BOX 54	Allen, Donna
BOX 54	Arnold, Helen
BOX 54	Felt, Paula (1 folder)
BOX 55	(1 folder)
BOX 55	Ferrell-Gevinson, Dorothy
BOX 55	Good, Barbara J.
BOX 56	Harding, Fann (2 folders)
BOX 56	General case material, 1993-1994, undated