Making the Case: Challenges and Opportunities in Judges' Papers

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Abstract

While many repositories hold the papers of federal, state, and local judges, judicial collections are an under-examined genre of archival materials. As a subset of public policy papers, however, judicial collections represent sites of encounter between the individual and the state; they have the potential to shed light on a host of interactions among peoples, particularly from underrepresented communities, as well as public officials and government institutions. In this talk, University of Kentucky archivist Anu Kasarabada explores characteristics of judicial collections: What distinguishes the papers of judges from other public policy materials, and what locates them as a part of this category? How do archivists address the privacy and confidentiality issues these collections may contain? Drawing on her experience with processing and teaching with judicial collections, Ms. Kasarabada will discuss the challenges and opportunities involved in working with these materials.

About the authors:

Anu Kasarabada (she/her) is an archivist and oral historian at the University of Kentucky. Formerly an archivist for the US Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Anu now focuses on acquiring, processing, and teaching with archival materials and oral histories documenting the Federal Judiciary.