



## Summary Information

**Title:** Gerald A. Goodwin Collection

**Collection Number:** 2019:021; 2021:017

**Collection Dates:** 1968 – 2019

**Extent:** 8 cubic feet

**Language:** English

## Collection Abstract:

Gerald A. Goodwin was an Angelina County District Attorney for 15 years and served as District Judge of the 159<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Angelina County for 10 years. After retiring, he spent another 13 years as a Senior District Judge. This collection contains many of the records collected by Mr. Goodwin during his career as both a District Attorney and District Judge in Angelina County. It also includes some records from his college and law school years, his years as an assistant district attorney in Harris County, his time in private practice, and his years as a Senior District Judge. The collection has materials dating from the 1970s until 2019. The collection includes professional and personal correspondence, case notes and court dockets, appeals, and other documents related to his work as an attorney and judge. Of particular note is the extensive collection of correspondence sent by residents of the Texas Department of Corrections to Mr. Goodwin. In 2019, materials related to the dedication at his memorial in December 2019 were added to the collection.

## Repository:

The History Center  
102 N. Temple  
Diboll, TX 75941  
936-829-3543  
[www.thehistorycenteronline.com](http://www.thehistorycenteronline.com)

**Author/Processing Information:** Allison Grimes, December 2019

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Gerald Alton Goodwin was born July 6, 1940 to Roy and Mary Goodwin. He was the youngest of seven children. Mr. Goodwin graduated from Lufkin High School in 1958 and then enlisted in the U. S. Army, where he served two years before being discharged. After his discharge in 1960, he began classes at Stephen F. Austin State Teacher's College (now Stephen F. Austin State University). In 1961 he was recalled to the Army due to the Berlin Crisis. After his second discharge, he returned to Stephen F. Austin, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science in

1966. Shortly after graduating, He married Mary Rivenbark. The couple had two children, Robin in 1967 and Wendy in 1972. In 1968, the family moved to Houston for him to begin classes at the University of Houston's Bates College of Law. He graduated from law school in 1971. After passing the State Bar of Texas exam, he began working as an assistant district attorney under Carol Vance in Harris County, from 1971 to 1973.

In 1974, the Goodwins returned to Angelina County where he worked as an assistant district attorney under John Hannah, Jr. In 1975, Goodwin succeeded Hannah as Angelina County District Attorney, as position he held until 1990. During his tenure as District Attorney, Goodwin prosecuted over 100 felony trials, including three capital murder cases. In 1990, Goodwin left the District Attorney's office to fulfill his appointment as Judge of the 159<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Angelina County. He served as District Court Judge until retiring in 2001, when he returned to private practice with longtime friend and colleague George Chandler. In 2003 Goodwin left private practice and began serving as a Senior District Judge, presiding over cases throughout Texas. He continued working in this capacity until passing away on August 3, 2016.

### **Collection Scope and Content:**

Gerald A. Goodwin was an Angelina County District Attorney for 15 years and served as District Judge of the 159<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Angelina County for 10 years. After retiring, he spent another 13 years as a Senior District Judge. This collection contains many of the records collected by Mr. Goodwin during his career as both a District Attorney and District Judge in Angelina County. It also includes some records from his college and law school years, his years as an assistant district attorney in Harris County, his time in private practice, and his years as a Senior District Judge. The collection has materials dating from the 1970s until 2019. The collection includes professional and personal correspondence, case notes and court dockets, appeals, and other documents related to his work as an attorney and judge. Of particular note is the extensive collection of correspondence sent by residents of the Texas Department of Corrections to Mr. Goodwin. In 2019, materials related to the dedication at his memorial in December 2019 were added to the collection.

**Arrangement:** This collection is arranged and described at the folder level.

### **Subject Terms**

#### **Personal Names**

- Goodwin, Gerald R.
- Chandler, George
- Wilson, David
- Hannah, John R., Jr.

#### **Occupations**

- Attorney
- Judge

#### **Locations**

- Lufkin (Tex.)
- Houston (Tex.)
- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Harris County (Tex.)

## Access and Use

### Access Restrictions:

**Acquisition Information:** This collection was donated to The History Center by the wife of the late Gerald Goodwin in August 2019. The materials related to the Goodwin Memorial Dedication were added in December 2019.

**Citation:** Gerald A. Goodwin Collection, 1968 – 2019, 2019:021, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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