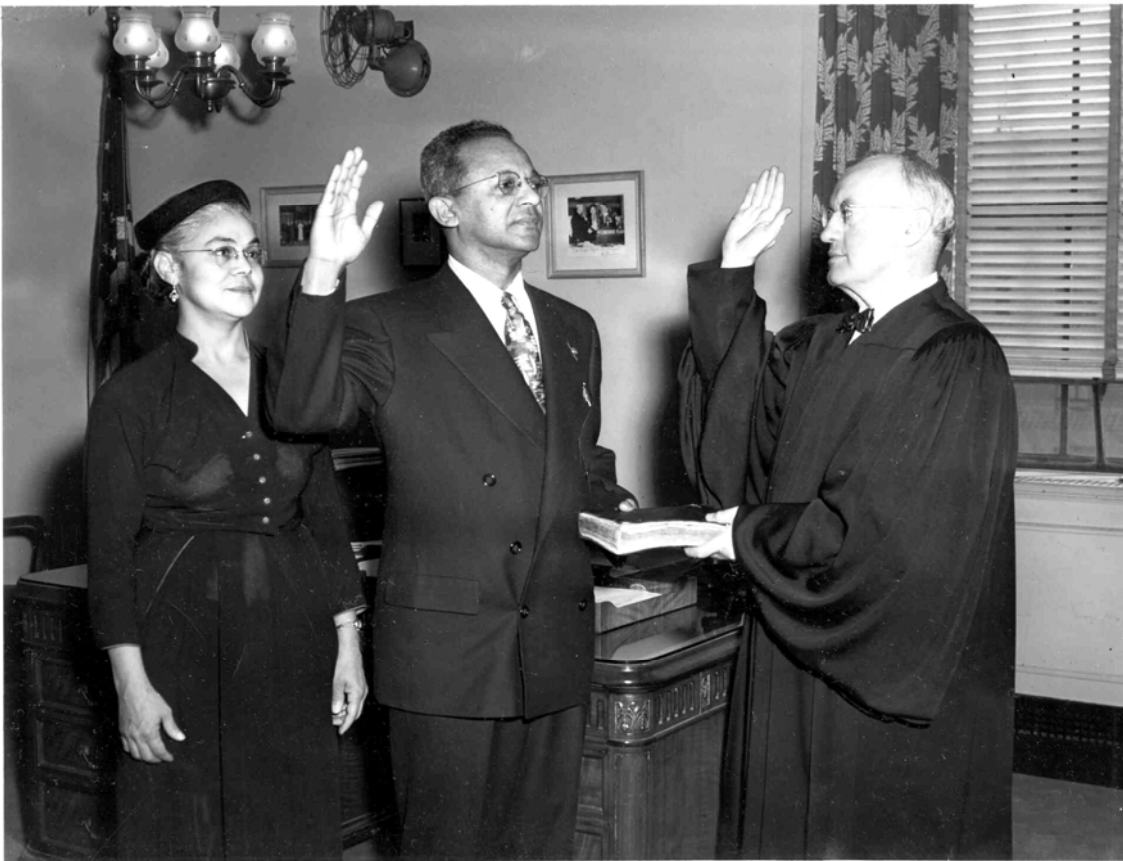




Guide to the Felipe N. Torres Papers



**Archives of the Puerto Rican Diaspora
Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Torres, Felipe Neri, 1897-1994

Title: Felipe N. Torres Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1881-2004

Bulk dates: 1920-1994

Quantity: 18 cu. ft.

Repository: Archives of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.

Abstract: The Felipe N. Torres Papers are an important resource for the study of early Puerto Rican political life in New York City, as well as about the contributions of Puerto Rican *pioneros* to law, politics and civic life. The materials in this collection consist of personal documents, clippings, photographs, speeches, certificates and correspondence.

Administrative Information

Collection Number: 2001-13

Provenance: Felipe Neri Torres

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Processed by: Kimberlly Irizarry and Mario H. Ramírez with the assistance of Sierra Freeman, Melisa Panchano, Nadya Rodríguez, Silvia Rodríguez and Diana Saenz

Date: April 2008

Felipe N. Torres (1897-1994)

Biographical Note:

Felipe Neri Torres was the second Puerto Rican elected to the New York State Assembly and the first to hold the office from the Bronx. Serving from 1953-1962, Torres initially represented the 5th Assembly District of Bronx County and would go on to represent the 4th Assembly District for the rest of his years in office; both districts were located in the South Bronx. From 1963-1967, shortly after the end of his terms in office, he also served as a Judge of the Family Court in the Bronx. A civic activist, Torres was extensively involved with the Puerto Rican community, supporting efforts to build organizations and becoming a founding member of several that continue to flourish to this day. His accomplishments both at the legislative level and as a civic leader contributed greatly to the building of the Puerto Rican/Latino community in New York City and are demonstrative of a pioneering spirit evident in many early arrivals from the island.

Born in Salinas, Puerto Rico on May 26, 1897 to Ezequiela Santiago and Francisco Torres, a respected cobbler and bodega owner, Felipe Torres was raised between Salinas and Ponce where his father regularly moved the family in search of work and better opportunities. Initially working as a clerk for his father, Torres learned at a young age the values of discipline, entrepreneurship and hard work. As a child, he and his siblings also benefited from their father's love of music and learned how to play the violin, guitar and how to sing. Although only a teenager at the time, Torres became the head of his household after his father's premature death in 1916 and was left to care for himself, his mother and his three siblings. Shortly thereafter, while still a student in high school, Torres was drafted into the armed services and subsequently attended the Third Officer Training School in San Juan. In November 1918, he was appointed Second Lieutenant of an infantry of the United States Army based in Puerto Rico. He was honorably discharged from service in December of that same year. Wanting to complete his studies and earn his high school diploma, Torres returned to Ponce High School and graduated in June 1919.

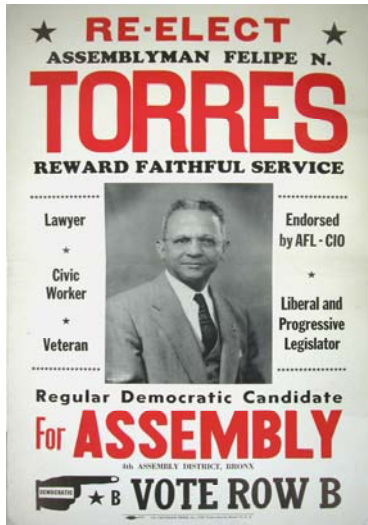
Unfortunately, the disruption in his schooling had a detrimental effect on his ability to qualify for entry into the University of Puerto Rico's Law School and Torres was forced to seek educational opportunities in the United States, where he believed he could work and attend school at the same time. He moved to New York City in 1919 at the age of 22 with help from his uncle Tiburcio who cashed in a one hundred dollar Liberty Bond from the First World War to pay for the travel expenses. Arriving in New York City with just ten dollars in his pocket, Torres settled in an apartment on East 132nd Street, where he lived with a friend from Salinas who was a student at The City College of New York. He would continue to reside in different parts of East Harlem until the mid-1940s. Determined to complete his education, he supported himself while attending Fordham Law School in the evenings by working several jobs, including one as a dishwasher at the Commodore Hotel, and others at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where he had operated a jackhammer, and the United States Post Office. Although an American citizen by recent Federal decree (1917), Torres felt discriminated against in his law classes, where he was often outnumbered by white students, due to his foreign appearance and distinct accent. As a result, he became close friends with many of the black students, whom he felt shared his viewpoint, struggles and outsider status. In 1926, Torres graduated with a Bachelors Degree of Law (LLB) from Fordham Law School and in 1927 he passed the New York State Bar, allowing him to practice law in the Court of the State of

New York. In an effort to further solidify his own professional position as well as the financial well-being of his family, Torres managed to go back to college in the late 1930s, attending in the evenings and received a Bachelors of Science Degree from The City College of New York in 1940.

Torres' nearly five year marriage to his first wife, Flérida Berrios, ended in divorce and resulted in two children, Frank and Aida. On July 11, 1931, he married his second wife, Inocencia Bello, a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico who had also settled in New York City. They were married for the next fifty eight years and had three children, Velia, Austin and Alma, whom they raised alongside Torres' son Frank; his daughter Aida remained with her mother. As a father, Torres strongly encouraged the pursuit of education in his household, as well as the study and appreciation of music. After school and during family gatherings, his children could be found doing their homework, reading and playing an assortment of musical instruments, among them the piano, violin and cello. Indeed, several of his children went on to attend the Manhattan School of Music and one of his daughters, Velia, became a trained opera singer. Torres' own love of music resulted in his studying the cello in the same music school as his children and in teaching himself to play the piano at age 75. Besides this focus on education and music, which also lead to all three of his daughters becoming educators, Torres and his wife placed great emphasis on teaching their children about Puerto Rican culture, encouraging them to speak and read Spanish from an early age and continuously instilling in them a sense of pride about their origins.

Torres' early career as a lawyer was marked by struggle. After completing his law degree and being admitted to the Bar, he decided to open his own practice in the Knickerbocker Building on 42nd Street and Broadway. Unable to cultivate the professional networks needed to attract clients, due in part to his rookie status and what he considered the rampant racism of the period, Torres was forced to close the practice shortly after its initial opening. By the early 1930s, however, he had re-opened his own practice at a new location on the corner of Madison Avenue and 116th Street, taking on cases dealing with anything from divorce to personal injury, predominantly among Puerto Ricans/Latinos, in tandem with his work as a Notary Public and translator. He would subsequently move his practice to a third location on W. 116th Street in the early 1940s before making the move to the Bronx in 1952, where he and his family had been living since 1946. Torres would maintain a general practice in the Bronx, on 149th Street, for the rest of his life.

A well-respected and popular lawyer and civic activist, Torres became increasingly well-known within the community and was, by the 1950s, looked towards as a leader and advocate for the ever growing colony of Puerto Ricans in New York, in general, and the South Bronx, in particular. In 1951 there was an attempt to appoint Torres as Justice of the Municipal Court in the First District, Bronx County by then Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri. Additional support for this appointment came from many local community organizations, such as Comité Hispano Americano del Bronx and the Spanish Grocer's Association, Inc., local newspapers, such as *El Diario de Nueva York* and *La Prensa*, as well as politicians from the island, including Felisa Rincón de Gautier. In 1952, there were also moves to get Torres appointed as Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx.



Although these bids for local office proved unsuccessful, Torres was subsequently nominated in 1953 by the Bronx County Democratic Executive Committee to fill a vacant State Assembly seat in the 5th District. A reluctant politician, Torres nevertheless recognized the need for Puerto Ricans to advocate for themselves and assume positions of power, given their increasing presence in New York, and was willing to take on the role if it meant that Puerto Ricans would be getting more adequate representation in New York City and State politics. Torres' eventual victory in 1953 made him the second Puerto Rican, after Oscar García Rivera in 1937, to win a seat in the New York State Assembly and the first to represent any district in the Bronx. Initially representing the 5th Assembly District in the South Bronx (1953-1956), Torres was re-elected to represent the 4th Assembly District, which included parts of the re-districted 5th, in 1956, 1958 and 1960. During his nearly five terms in office, Torres

campaigning for legislation to eliminate English literacy tests (at the time required for voting), advocated for the maintenance of New York City's Rent Control law and for raising the minimum wage. He was also a member of standing committees on Civil Service and General Laws and Taxation and appointed to the Civil War Centennial Commission.

In 1962, he failed to gain the support of the party machine in the Bronx, which was more interested in filling the seat with a non-Puerto Rican, and was forced to run as an independent candidate. Alongside other Puerto Ricans in the area, he organized an alternative Democratic Club, the Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Association, Inc., that ultimately struggled to place his son Frank, then an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx, on the ballot when his own candidacy became unlikely. Once this was successfully accomplished, Torres was replaced by Frank as New York State Assemblyman of the 4th District, a seat the latter was only able to hold onto for one term.

During his years in political office, efforts continued in the community to get Torres appointed to a leading position in the City's court system. Besides the above mentioned attempts in 1951 and 1952, Torres garnered wide support to fill the seat of Magistrate of the Court in the Bronx in 1957 and was one of three candidates proposed to then Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Torres was finally appointed Judge of the Family Court of the City of New York by Wagner in 1963. It was in this position that he would be most influential, working closely with issues affecting local families. Upon retiring from the bench in 1967 at the age of seventy, Torres continued to practice law with his youngest son, Austin, at the family firm Torres and Torres Attorneys At Law, which he had originally founded with his son Frank in 1957. In addition, in 1970 he began serving as a Trial Examiner with the New York City Board of Education and, in 1984, he was appointed as a Judicial Hearing Officer in the State Supreme Court. He was also a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness of the Appellate Division, First Department, from 1971 through the early 1990s. This committee evaluated the qualifications of candidates to practice law in New York. Torres was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of the U.S. in 1966.

Among his many accomplishments was the establishment of the Puerto Rican Bar Association. As the number of Spanish speaking lawyers increased, Torres and several of his colleagues felt the need for an association that addressed their specific goals and objectives. Although there were some

objections to the creation of this organization from those who thought that it was unnecessary given the existence of Bar Associations on the City and County level, Torres and the other founding members were of the opinion that they and their colleagues needed a place that could serve as a forum for the exchange of professional knowledge and as a tool for networking. The Association continued to flourish in subsequent years and to this day serves as a necessary forum for Puerto Rican lawyers citywide. In his honor, the Association established the “Felipe Neri Torres Award,” which annually recognizes an individual of Puerto Rican descent who has achieved significant accomplishments in the field of law. In addition, Torres and several other community leaders founded The Ponce De Leon Federal Savings and Loan Association, now known as Ponce De Leon Federal Savings Bank. At a time when Puerto Ricans/Latinos found it difficult to establish credit and/or find ways to obtain a bank mortgage to buy a home in New York City, Torres and his colleagues established the bank in an effort to provide these services to their underserved and overlooked communities. Besides serving as Director, Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors, Torres played an important role as the institution’s Director Emeritus.

As a member of several distinguished clubs and organizations, Torres was highly respected by his colleagues and was often elected to leading positions in many of the organizations in which he took part. In the early 1950s, he served as both Second Vice-President (circa 1951) and President of the Harlem Lawyers Association (1954). In 1953, he was made Vice-President of the Pontiac Democratic Club. He was also on the Board of Directors for the Bronx County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Prospect Little League in 1956. He was a member of both the Bronx County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. From 1958 to 1959 he was also the President of the Citizens Committee for the Feast of Saint John the Baptist in New York and that same year he was elected Vice-President of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in the Bronx (1958). In 1960, Torres served as Honorary Co-Chairman of the National Viva Kennedy Clubs which sought to promote the presidential candidacy of John F. Kennedy among Puerto Ricans and Latinos nationwide.

Among the many honors accorded to him include the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the City University of New York in 1982, being named as “patriarch” of “The Family of the Year” at the 25th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade in 1983, having a street named after him in his hometown of Salinas in the summer of 1987 and being chosen as the focus of a documentary film, distributed to New York City public schools, chronicling his accomplishments and contributions to the Puerto Rican community entitled, “Where There’s a Will...There’s A Way: The Story about Judge Felipe N. Torres.” In April of 1990, several days after the death of his wife Inocencia Bello, El Instituto de Puerto Rico honored the couple as the “Fundadores, Familia Ejemplar ’90” and on June 15, 1991, Torres was made an honorary member of Puerto Rico’s Bar Association, El Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico, an association that he had hoped to join during the early stages of his career. In 1993, he was honored with the Dean’s Medal of Recognition from Fordham University Law School, his alma mater.

Felipe Neri Torres died on April 3, 1994 at the age of 96, leaving behind five children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, many of whom became successful and well respected professionals in their own right. Throughout his long, dynamic and productive life, he would be honored not only for his dedication to the rights of minorities, contributions to the Puerto

Rican/Latino community and vast accomplishments, but also for forging a path in the fields of law and politics for other Puerto Ricans and Latinos who followed in his footsteps.

The Felipe Neri Torres Papers compliment The Frank Torres Papers and The Oscar Garcia Rivera Papers which offer rich and insightful information on early Puerto Rican achievements in law, politics, *pioneros* who came to New York City at the beginning of the twentieth century and early efforts to mobilize Puerto Rican/Latino organizations.

Sources:

Audiocassette, Interview, Torres, Felipe N., 1982

Navarro, Félix C., *Historia de la comunidad puertorriqueña de Nueva York*, 1971

Videocassette, “Where There’s a Will...There’s a Way: The Story about Judge Felipe N. Torres,” 1990

Note: Biographical information was also derived from the collection.

Scope and Content:

The Felipe N. Torres Papers help chronicle the long and dynamic career one of New York's original Puerto Rican *pioneros* in the legal and political fields. Moreover, they help trace the origins of the Puerto Rican community in New York in the early decades of the twentieth century and its subsequent growing presence and influence in numerous aspects of political and civic life.

A historically rich collection, highlights of the papers include extensive correspondence with noted figures such as Luis Muñoz Marín, Felisa Rincón Gautier, Robert F. Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. and former New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., files chronicling various facets of Torres' professional life and materials on several seminal community and political organizations. In addition, contained is a large selection of photographs documenting Torres' vibrant political and legal careers, as well as the lives of his equally as dynamic family.

The materials in this collection span the years from 1881 to 2004 with the bulk concentrating on the years 1920 to 1994. They consist of correspondence, memoranda, photographs, flyers, clippings, programs, videotapes, audiocassettes and artifacts. The folders are arranged alphabetically and the documents are arranged chronologically. The materials are in both Spanish and English.

The collection has been organized into the following series:

- I. Biographical and Personal Information**
- II. Correspondence**
- III. Legal Career**
- IV. Political Career**
- V. Family**
- VI. Subject Files**
- VII. Organizations**
- VIII. Writings and Publications**
- IX. Photographs**
- X. Audiovisual**
- XI. Artifacts**

Access Points:

Subject Names:

Alvarez, Gabriel E.
Archer, Edward
Badillo, Herman
Bello de Torres, Inocencia
Bello, Orlando
Buckley, Charles
Carrasquillo, Pedro
Carro, John
Cohn, Roy M.
Colón, Juana Vicente
Crespo, John
Cruz, Lucy
Del Toro, Angelo
Di Carlo, Joseph
Díaz, Saturno
Dollinger, Isidore
Fusco, Louis
Gerena Valentín, Gilberto
Gómez, Manuel
Hernández, Haydée
Hernández, Juano
Jiménez, Clara
Jones, John Raymond
Kennedy, John F.
Klein, Martin
Laureano, Sixto
Mariño, Eugene A.
Marrero, Víctor
Mc Garvey, Francis
Medina, Harold Raymond
Méndez, Raphael
Méndez, Tony
Merced, Rosita
Miranda, Frank
Montserrat, Joseph
Montano, Armando
Mora, George
Muñoz Marín, Luís
Navarro, Félix
Neco, Luís
Núñez, Emilio
Olmedo, Luís
Procaccino, Mario

Quiñones, Caesar
Ramírez, Gilbert
Ramos, Manuel
Rincón Gautier, Felisa
Roque, Demóstenes S.
Ruíz, Israel
Santaella Vidal, Irma
Senior, Clarence O.
Torres, Aida
Torres, Alma
Torres, Austin
Torres, Felipe Neri
Torres, Frank
Torres, Velia
Torres, Yolanda
Velázquez, Nydia Margarita
Vélez, Ramón
Warner, Rey

Subject Organizations:

American Youth Committee for the Election of Felipe Torres
Archivo de Documentación Puertorriqueña (Repository of Puerto Rican Record)
Asociación de Jueces Hispanos
Bronx County Bar Association
Citizens Committee for the Re-Election of Felipe Torres
Desfile de la Raza
Harlem Lawyers Association
Instituto de Puerto Rico
National Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights
New York Hunts Point Lion's Club
Pamela C. Torres Day Care Center
Parkchester Tenants Association
Ponce de Leon Federal Savings Bank
Pondiac Democratic Club
Prospect Little League
Puerto Rican Bar Association, Inc.
Puerto Rican Community Development Project, Inc.
Puerto Rican Law Students Association of New York University
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
Puerto Rican Pioneers Association, Inc.
Puertorriqueños Para Mejor Educación
Ricans Organization for Self Advancement
South Bronx Democratic Club
Spanish Catholic Action
Torres & Torres Attorneys at Law

Subject Places:

New York (State) -- Legislature -- Assembly
New York State -- Politics
New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government.

Subject Topics:

Hispanics -- New York (State) -- New York
Hispanics in New York (City)
New York Puerto Rican Day Parade
Political participation -- United States -- History 20th century.
Political participation -- United States -- Puerto Ricans --New York (State) -- New York
Puerto Ricans in New York (City)

Document Types:

Artifacts
Audiocassettes
Clippings
Correspondence
Flyers
Memoranda
Photographs
Posters
Publications
Videotapes
Writings

Series I: Biographical and Personal Information (1918-1994)

This series chronicles Torres' personal life and includes materials such as resumes, interview transcripts, certificates, clippings, biographical writings and documents related to his memorial service. Of particular note is a certificate from Robert F. Wagner, Jr., Mayor of the City of New York, appointing Torres Judge of the Family Court (1963) and a State Legislative Resolution memorializing him on the occasion of his death (1994).

Box	Folder	
1	1	Awards, Certificates, Diplomas, 1922, 1944-1968, 1980-1991
	2	Biographical Information, undated, 1923, 1945-1994
	3	Birthday Guest Books, 1972, 1987, 1992
	4	Clippings, undated, 1950-1994
	5	Condolences, 1994
	6	Diary, 1931-1935
	7	Eulogies, 1990, 1994
	8	Financial, undated, 1921-1924, 1958-1965
2	1	Interview Transcripts, undated, 1958-1974
	2	Medical Documents, undated, 1927-1993
	3	Memorial Book, 1994
	4	Military Records, 1918
	5	Planner, 1985
	6	State of New York Legislative Resolution, 1994
	7	"Where There is a Will...There is a Way": An Educational Video Documentary Project about Judge Felipe N. Torres, 1985-1994

Series II: Correspondence (1920-1994)

This second series contains both personal and professional correspondence, cards and telegrams. Although the correspondence dates from 1920-1994, the bulk covers Torres' terms as a New York State Assemblyman and as Judge of the Family Court from the early 1950's to the late 1960's. Of note is a telegram sent by him to members of the House of Representatives expressing regret about an incident on March 1, 1954 when three Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire in the House, wounding five. Highlights also include correspondence from former Governors of Puerto Rico Luis Muñoz Marín and Carlos Romero-Barceló, former Mayor of San Juan Felisa Rincón Gautier, Joseph Monserrat, Director of the Migration Division, and former New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr. congratulating Torres on his accomplishments.

Box	Folder	
2	8	Congratulation Cards, 1958, 1963
	9-10	Greeting Cards, undated, 1938-1993
	11	Incoming, undated, 1920-1927

3	1-6	Incoming, 1933-1962
4	1-6	Incoming, 1963-1976
5	1-6	Incoming, 1977-1991
6	1 2-7	Incoming, 1992-1993 Invitations, undated, 1928-1985
7	1-2 3 4-7	Invitations, 1986-1993 Memoranda, Family Court of the State of New York, 1963-1967 Outgoing, undated, 1922-1959
8	1-9	Outgoing, 1960-1978
9	1-7 8	Outgoing, 1979-1993 Postcards, undated, 1929-1993
10	1 2 3	Sympathy Cards, undated, 1958-1994 Telegrams, Incoming, 1944-1990 Telegrams, Outgoing, 1954-1963

Series III: Legal Career (1920-1992)

Spanning the breadth of Torres' involvement in the legal field, this series contains evidence not only of his later professional accomplishments, but also documents that attest to his early legal education. In the latter category, researchers can expect to find detailed notes on different aspects of the law which Torres studied while at Fordham University Law School. In addition, this series effectively covers his judicial appointments, his active participation in the profession and his private practice, Torres & Torres Attorneys at Law. A highlight of the series includes a number of speeches delivered by Torres in his capacity as a lawyer and Judge of the Family Court, as well as his annotated editions of the New York Lawyer's Diary and Manual.

Box	Folder	
10	4	Annotated Clippings, undated, 1969-1982

Applications

5	Admission to the New York State Bar, 1926-1967
6	Hearing Examiner, Family Court, undated, 1984-1985
7	Judicial Hearing Officers, undated, 1988-1992
8	Appointment, Special Council to Serve as Trial Examiner, Board of Education, undated, 1970-1977

Class Notes

- 9 Bankruptcy, 1925
- 10 Bills, Wills, 1924-1925
- 11 Constitution Law, Sales, Equity, Partnership, 1924-1925

- 11 1 Insurance Law, 1926
- 2 Practice, 1925-1926
- 3 Property, 1923-1924
- 4 Quasi Contract, 1925-1926
- 5 Torts, 1923-1924

Committee on Character and Fitness

- 6 Applicants, undated, 1951-1992
- 7-8 Correspondence, 1984-1989

- 12 1 Correspondence, 1990-1991
- 2 General, undated, 1957-1972

- 3 Family Court Decisions, 1964-1965
- 4 Fordham University, 1920-1926
- 5 Judicial Appointments, undated, 1962
- 6 National Institute for Juvenile Court Judges, 1964
- 7 New York State Bar Association, Dues, undated

- 13 1-2 New York Lawyers Diary and Manual, 1976, 1988

- 14 1 New York Lawyers Diary and Manual, 1990
- 2 Notary Public Licensing, 1927-1951

Notes

- 3 Admission to the Bar, Puerto Rico, undated, 1979-1991
- 4 General, undated, 1985-1987

- 5 Speeches, undated, 1952-1969
- 6 Torres & Torres Attorneys at Law, undated, 1964-1992

Series IV: Political Career (1949-1967)

Focusing on Torres' tenure as New York State Assemblyman, this series demonstrates his level of engagement and success during his approximately ten years in office. Only the second Puerto Rican to enter the halls of the Assembly, he was preceded by Oscar García Rivera in 1937, Torres' successive electoral victories attested to his knowledgeable approach to community politics and ability to adroitly navigate the Democratic political machine in the Bronx. Highlights of the series include files on the Citizens Committee for the Re-election of Felipe Torres and on materials

documenting his nomination to the New York State Assembly. Of further interest are notes and speeches that provide information on the political issues that engaged him throughout his career. Among those focused on are juvenile delinquency, public housing, public health, education and daycare centers for the children of working parents. Included also is a speech endorsing Robert García for Congress. In addition, the notes help track key incidents in Torres' career and on the political advancement of Puerto Ricans/Latinos in the Bronx, in particular, and New York City, in general.

Box	Folder	
14	7	Citizens Committee for the Re-election of Felipe Torres Campaign Bank Book, undated, 1954-1960
15	1	General, undated, 1954-1960
	2	Democratic State Committee, undated, 1949-1960
	3	Depositions, 1953
	4	Manual for the Use of the Legislature of the State of New York, 1957
	5-6	The New York Red Book, 1955, 1959-1960
16	1-2	The New York Red Book, 1964-1967
	3	Nomination to Assembly, undated, 1953
	4	Notes, Democratic Party, undated, 1956-1957
	5	Press Releases, undated, 1960-1961
	6	Proposals, undated
	7-8	Speeches, undated, 1952-1956
17	1	Speeches, 1957-1959

Series V: Family (1881-2000)

This series supplies information on members of the Torres family, as well as on that of Torres' second wife, Inocencia Bello. Of special interest are letters written to Inocencia Bello by her sister Haydée Hernández, wife of the early twentieth century actor Juano Hernández. Included also are documents about Eugene Mariño, Archbishop of the Catholic Church in Atlanta, GA, a file on Torres' grandchildren, many of whom also entered the legal field, and extensive materials on Torres' son and fellow Family Court Judge and New York State Assemblyman, Frank.

Box	Folder	
17		Bello, Inocencia
	2	Agenda, 1974
	3	Awards and Biographical Information, undated, 1909-1990
	4	Chemistry Notes, undated, 1924
	5-6	Correspondence, undated, 1933-1986
	7	Finances, undated, 1971-1983

- 18 1 Memorial, 1990
- Bello, Orlando**
- 2 Brooklyn Law School, 1924-1928
3 Correspondence, undated, 1920-1956
4 Ponce High School, undated, 1917-1922
- Colón, Juana Vicenta**
- 5 Accounting, undated, 1977-1988
6 Declaration of Heirs, undated, 1970-1971
7 Deeds and Heir Resolution, 1934, 1970-1971
8 Deeds, Heirs to Felipe N. Torres, undated, 1965-1971
9 Escritura y Expediente, undated, 1881-1917
10 Exposición, undated, 1965, 1969, 1991
- 19 1 Expropriation, 1963-1968
2 Genealogy and Notes, undated, 1969-1993
3 Hearing in Puerto Rico, undated, 1990
4 Informe de Valoración, undated, 1975-1976
5 Lease, undated, 1924-1961
6 Property, General, undated, 1967-1991
7 Property, Survey, undated, 1903-1989
8 Rental Deeds, 1920, 1947
9 Sworn Declaration of Legitimate Daughter and Vital Records,
1965-1970
- 10 Cousin's News, 1974-1975
11 Diplomas and Certificates, 1910, 1919
12 General, 1967-1985
13 Hernández, Juano, undated, 1928-2000
14 Mariño, Antonio, Correspondence, undated, 1966-1968
15 Mariño, Eugene, 1974, 1988
16 Pacheco, Eduardo, undated, 1913-1952
17 Torres, Aida, undated, 1939-1980
18 Torres, Alma, undated, 1938-1990
19 Torres, Andrea, 1969-1987
20 Torres, Austin, undated, 1937-1993
- Torres, Ezequiela**
- 20 1 Compraventa, 1917
2 Correspondence, 1925-1975
3 Declaration of Heirs, 1955-1975
4 Estate, undated, 1960-1977
5 Expediente de domino, 1918-1972
6 General, 1940-1974

Torres, Frank

	7	Admission to the Bar, 1953-1954
	8	Application for Appointment to Federal Court, 1980-1983
	9	Association of Hispanic Judges, 1985, 1989
	10	Biographical Information, undated, 1987-1994
	11	Clippings, 1958-1990
	12-13	Committee for the Election of Honorable Frank Torres to the Supreme Court, undated, 1987-1991
21	1	Correspondence, Incoming, undated, 1951-1998
	2	Correspondence, Outgoing, undated, 1954-1998
	3	Education, 1951-1956
	4	General, undated, 1932-1987
	5-6	Mayor's Committee on the Judiciary, undated, 1963-1980
	7	Press Releases, 1973
	8	Speeches, 1980-1991
	9	Writings, undated, 1988-1993
22	1	Torres, Pedro Luis, undated, 1927, 1949, 1967
	2	Torres, Velia, undated, 1933-1988
	3	Torres, Yolanda Iola, undated, 1980-1984 (restricted)

OS I Item

1	Family Tree of Juana Vicenta Colón, undated
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Series VI: Subject Files (1936-1995)

This series highlights Torres' wide ranging involvement in numerous political and religious sectors. In addition, it is a rich source of information on the development of Puerto Rican/Latino politics in New York City. Highlights of the series include files on the Citizens Committee for the Feast of Saint John the Baptist in New York, which promoted a local celebration of Puerto Rico's patron saint, and materials that help track the careers of several prominent local politicians and community figures. These latter documents contain information on such notable individuals as Herman Badillo, Robert García, Ramón Vélez and Gilberto Gerena Valentín.

Box Folder

22	4	Badillo, Herman, undated, 1965-1987
	5	Business Cards, undated
	6	Carro, John, undated, 1964-1991

**Citizens Committee for the Feast of Saint John the Baptist
in New York**

	7	Clippings, undated, 1958-1987
	8	Correspondence, 1958-1959, 1972-1973

- 9 General, undated, 1936-1973
- 10 Press Releases, 1958-1959
- 11 Programs, undated, 1958-1971

Clippings

- 12 Cedeño, Blanca, 1978-1986
- 13 Del Toro, Angelo, 1985
- 14 Ferré, Luis A., undated, 1968
- 15 Ferrer, Fernando, 1987-1988
- 16 General, undated, 1950-1991

- 23 1 Negrón López, Luis, undated
- 2 Olmedo, Luis, 1982-1985
- 3 Puerto Rico, Elections, undated, 1968
- 4 Puerto Rico, Political Status, undated, 1971-1992
- 5 Ruiz, Israel, undated, 1985, 1989
- 6 Vidal Santaella, Irma, 1983-1989
- 7 Votación Puertorriqueña, undated, 1954, 1959

- 8 Contacts, undated, 1987-1988
- 9 The Crusade for the Salvation on Redemption of Youth,
undated, 1964, 1967
- 10 Del Valle, Telesforo Jr., undated, 1982-1984
- 11 Delle Cese, Alexander, undated, 1982-1984
- 12 Desfile del día de la raza (Hispanic Day Parade), undated,
1965, 1967
- 13 Di Carlo, Joseph, undated, 1975-1976
- 14-16 Event Programs, undated, 1944-1983

- 24 1-2 Event Programs, 1984-1995
- 3 Figueroa, Antonio, undated, 1970, 1979, 1987
- 4 Flyers and Pamphlets, undated, 1967, 1972
- 5 García, Robert, undated, 1963-1990
- 6 General, undated, 1944, 1957, 1974
- 7 Gerena Valentín, Gilberto, undated, 1977
- 8-10 Index Cards, A-F, undated

- 25 1-5 Index Cards, G-R, undated

- 26 1-2 Index Cards, S-Z, undated
- 3 Jackson, Jesse, Rev., 1988-1989
- 4 Johnson, Robert T., undated, 1989
- 5 Karmon, Elias, undated, 1977-1995
- 6 Kennedy, John F., undated, 1960
- 7 Klein, Martin, 1976-1986
- 8 Maintenance, 757 Beck Street, 1947, 1961-1963

- 9 Marrero, Víctor, 1979
- 10 Membership Cards, 1927, 1949-1992
- 11 Menus, undated
- 12 Miranda, Frank, 1970, 1977
- 13 Monserrat, Joseph, undated, 1975-1977
- 14 Muñoz Marín, Luis, undated, 1965-1980
- 15 Newsletters, undated, 1962-1993

- 27 1 New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities, undated, 1989
- 2 Núñez, Emilio, undated, 1952-1985
- 3 Parkchester Tenants Association, 1975-1986
- 4 Political Campaign Materials, undated, 1960-1992
- 5 President Carter's Visit to Panama, 1978
- 6 Puerto Rican Community Conference, undated, 1967
- 7 Puerto Rican Day Parade, undated, 1964-1991
- 8 Puerto Rico, 1970-1979
- 9 Religious Practices, 1965-1993
- 10 Rental Disputes, 1947-1948
- 11 Silhouette Portraits, undated
- 12-13 Souvenir Photograph Covers, undated, 1949-1972

- 28 1 Spanish American Committee of the Bronx, undated, 1951-1956
- 2 Spanish Catholic Action, Archdiocesan Education Committee, undated, 1963
- 3 Travel Documents, undated, 1963-1967
- 4 Vélez, Ramón, undated, 1974-1988
- 5 Wagner, Robert, Jr., undated, 1956-1964, 1989
- 6 Youth Village Center, undated, 1964

OS II Item

- 1 Poster, The Puerto Rican New Deal Democratic Union Calls to Vote for Kennedy, ca. 1960
- 2 Table Assignments, Judicial Friends, Seventh Annual Rivers Toney, Watson Dinner, 1988

Series VII: Organizations (1953-1994)

This series illustrates Torres' avid participation in different social clubs, and political, community and civic organizations, several of which he helped establish and/or direct. Encompassing such groups as the Puerto Rican Bar Association, Inc., the Ponce de Leon Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Asociación de Jueces Hispanos and the Harlem Lawyers Association, the organizations represented here reflect the breadth of professional groups in which Torres actively

participated. Of particular note are materials on the South Bronx Democratic Club and the Pontiac Democratic Club, the latter of which was established in 1921 and which served as a mediator between elected officials and the general public in the 4th and 5th New York State Assembly Districts.

Included as well are documents on the Migration Division (Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of Labor) and its role in voter registration campaigns and on the Pamela C. Torres Day Care Center, an organization founded in 1958 by Frank Torres and his wife Yolanda Iola Márquez to commemorate their infant daughter who died of leukemia.

Box	Folder	
28	7	Archivo de Documentación Puertorriqueña (Repository of Puerto Rican Records), undated, 1977-1983
	8	Asociación de Jueces Hispanos, 1980-1991
	9	Bronx County Bar Association, 1982-1993
	10	Bronx County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, undated, 1963-1968
	11	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of Labor, Migration Division, undated, 1960-1961
	12	General, undated, 1990
	13	Harlem Lawyers Association, 1964, 1966, 1980-1991
29	1	Instituto de Puerto Rico, undated, 1957-1992
	2	National Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights, By-Laws, undated
	3	New York Hunts Point Lion's Club, undated, 1955-1975
	4	Pamela C. Torres Day Care Center, 1959, 1991-1993

**Ponce de Leon Federal Savings
and Loan Association**

5-6		Agendas and Minutes, 1985-1987 (restricted)
	7	Branch Application, 1973
	8	Correspondence, 1961-1987
	9	General, undated, 1954-1987
30	1	Leases, undated, 1961-1964
	2	Pontiac Democratic Club, undated, 1953-1964
	3	Prospect Little League, undated, 1956

Puerto Rican Bar Association, Inc.

4-5		Annual Dinner Dance, undated, 1975-1988
6		General, undated, 1963-1994
7		Puerto Rican Community Development Project, Inc., undated, 1966-1971

- 8 Puerto Rican Law Students Association of New York University, undated, 1973
- 9 Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, 1975-1981
- 10 Ricans Organization for Self Advancement, undated, 1973-1974
- 11 South Bronx Democratic Club, 1984-1985

OS III Item

- 1-2 Leases, Ponce de Leon Savings Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1961, 1963

Series VIII: Writings and Publications (1936-1993)

The writings and publications contained in this series provide researchers with informative materials that Torres collected and used for his work. They in turn offer a better understanding of the Puerto Rican community, its history and politics, and on issues pertinent to Puerto Rico itself. Contained also are some general remarks and speeches, a program for the Desfile Puertorriqueño de Nueva York highlighting the contributions of the Torres family and Torres' guitar manual.

Box Folder

- 31 1 Alumni Directory & Referral Guide, Fordham Law Alumni Association, 1993
- 2 Carrasquillo, Pedro, undated
- 3 Governor's Advisory Committee for Hispanic Affairs, 1985
- 4 Guitar Manual, 1936
- 5 Jugando y Cantando, Games and Songs of Puerto Rico, 1952
- 6 New York State Legislature, 1961-1962
- 7 Notebook, 1972-1993

Notes

- 8 Brotherhood Week Celebration, undated, 1955-1958
- 9 Día del la Raza, 1967
- 10 Felipe N. Torres vs. Otto Nauerz, undated, 1953
- 11 General, 1970-1991
- 12 Puerto Rico, General, undated, 1990
- 13 Puerto Rico, Political Status, undated, 1991
- 14 Salinas, undated, 1967-1987
- 15 La nueva tesis, Hernández Colón, Rafael, 1983
- 16 The Ordination of a Priest, 1962
- 17 Program, Desfile Puertorriqueño de Nueva York, 25vo aniversario, 1983
- 18 Progress in Puerto Rico, Basic Facts, 1971-1974
- 32 1-2 Remarks and Speeches, undated, 1952-1968

OS IV Item

- 1 Newsletter, The Urban League News, 1972

Series IX: Photographs (1919-1994)

This series contains a rich selection of photographs documenting numerous aspects of Torres' life and work. The bulk of the material concentrates on the 1950s and the 1960s during his tenure as a New York State Assemblyman from the Bronx. Included are photographs of family and friends, as well as organizations which he co-founded and/or participated in. It also documents the activities of numerous elected officials and politicians, including leisurely outings, assemblies, banquets and parades. Of particular note are photographs of the Pontiac Democratic Club and of Puerto Rican participation in John F. Kennedy's campaign for President of the United States.

Box	Folder	
33		Family
	1	50 th Wedding Anniversary Dinner, 1981
	2	Bello Family, undated, 1933-1956
	3	Berrocal, Ida Ines, undated, 1939
	4	Friends, undated, 1947-1967
	5	General, undated, 1934-1994
	6	Grandchildren, undated, 1954-1990
	7	Hernández, Juano and Family, undated, 1926-1958
	8	Home, 757 Beck Street, Bronx, NY, ca. 1950
	9	Puerto Rico, undated, 1975, 1990
34	1	Puerto Rico, Album, undated, 1987
	2	Relatives, undated, 1940-1982
	3	Suárez and Cardona Families, undated, 1940-1967
	4	Torres Children and Friends, undated, 1955-1958
	5	Torres, Aida, undated, 1930-1961
	6	Torres, Aida, Wedding, undated, 1952
	7	Torres, Alma, undated, 1940-1975
	8	Torres, Austin, undated, 1936-1987
	9	Torres, Ezequiela and Sons, undated, 1941-1961
	10	Torres, Frank, undated, 1930-1991
	11	Torres, Inocencia, undated, 1925
35	1	Torres, Velia, undated, 1934-1959
	2	Weddings, undated, 1949
		General
	3-5	Banquets, ca. 1940s-1980s, 1949-1977
	6	Baseball, Arroyo, Luis "Tite," 1955

- 7 Baseball, Liga Borinquen and Prospect Little League, 1954
- 8 Campaigns and Voting, undated, 1953-1959
- 9 City College of New York, ca. 1930s
- 10 Contact Sheets, Actualidad Insular, WAPA-TV, 1954
- 11 Fiesta de San Juan, undated, 1958-1959
- 12 General, undated, 1920-1968
- 13 Hispanic Day Parade, 1957

- 36 1 Homenaje al Hon. Jesús T. Piñero, undated
- 2 Kennedy, John F., Campaign, undated, 1960
- 3 Kennedy, John F., Campaign, Rincón Gautier, Felisa, 1960-1961
- 4 Migration Division Office, 1960
- 5 Negatives, undated
- 6 Negro History Week, 1955
- 7 Núñez, Emilio, Campaign, 1961
- 8 Núñez, Emilio and Navarro, Félix, undated
- 9 Political Figures, undated
- 10 Port Authority Inspection, undated, 1957, 1958
- 11 Publicity, undated, 1954-1958
- 12 Social Activities with Celia and Jerry Maneiro, 1963-1964
- 13-15 Various Activities, undated, 1953-1964
- 16 Vassar College, ca.1954
- 17 Visiting Governor Thomas E. Dewey, 1954
- 18 Wagner, Robert, Jr., Campaign, undated
- 19 Wedding, undated, 1968, 1975

Organizations

- 20 Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, 1977
- 21 Club Cubano Inter-Americano, undated, 1957-1958

- 37 1 Hispanic Naturopathic Society, 1960
- 2 Instituto de Puerto Rico, ca. 1950's
- 3 New York Telephone Company, Public Relations, 1961
- 4-5 Ponce de Leon Federal Savings Bank, 1960-1965, 1973
- 6 Pontiac Democratic Club, undated, 1956
- 7 Puerto Rican Bar Association, undated, 1963, 1981
- 8 Puerto Rican Lawyer's Association, undated
- 9 Torres & Torres Attorneys at Law, undated, 1955-1961

Torres, Felipe Neri

- 10 116th Street Office, undated
- 11 Birthday, undated
- 12 Campaign, ca. 1952
- 13-14 Honoring of Felipe N. Torres at P.S. 42 and New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, 1957-1991

	15	Portraits, undated
38	1	Portraits, undated, 1919-1982
	2	Swearing In Ceremonies, New York State Assemblyman and Judge of the Family Court, 1953, 1963
	3	With Bello, Inocencia, undated, 1947-1975
	4	With Political Figures, undated, 1955-1977
	5	With Rodríguez, Felipe, undated
	6	With Torres, Austin, undated

Travel

	7	Europe, undated
	8	Italy, undated, 1982
	9	Mexico, undated
	10	Middle East, undated
	11	El Morro, San Juan, Puerto Rico, undated, 1949, 1970

Series X: Audiovisual (1982-1990)

Included in this series are audiocassette interviews with Torres and his wife Inocencia. These interviews, conducted by their grandson Rey Michael Warner, discuss their childhood memories, family history and experiences upon arriving in New York in the 1920s. Also included is a video documentary about Torres titled “Where There’s a Will...There’s a Way: The Story About Judge Felipe N. Torres” that takes note of his professional achievements and highlights his contributions to the advancement of the Puerto Rican community.

Box	Item	
39		Audiocassettes
	1	Campaign Jingle, Torres, Felipe N., undated
	2	Interview, Bello, Inocencia, 1982
	3	Interview, Torres, Felipe N. , 1982
	4	Videocassette, “Where There’s a Will...There’s a Way: The Story about Judge Felipe N. Torres,” 1990

Series XI: Artifacts (1922-1988)

This series contains materials highlighting Torres’s many activities. Among them are autographed baseballs from the Liga Borinquen, at whose inaugural game in 1954 he tossed the first ball, as well as several sashes, including the sash he used as President of the Fiesta de San Juan Bautista. Additional highlights are a button from 1922, with Torres’ photo, which was taken when he worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and a pin indicating ten years of service to the New York State Assembly.

Box	Item	
39	5	Autographed Baseballs, Liga Borinquen, 1954-1955
		Buttons
	6	San Juan Fiesta, 1959
	7	Torres, Felipe N., Navy Yard, 1922
	8	Cuff Links, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1963
	9	Dog Tag, Malavé, Gregorio, undated
	10	Honorary Membership Card, AAA, 1956
	11	Locket and Cloth Identification, Police Conference, State of New York, 1954
	12	Match Book, Torres, Felipe N., undated
	13	Medallion, San Juan Fiesta, New York, undated
		Pendants
	14	Fiat Voluntas Tua, Cardinal Cooke, undated
	15	Sequere Deum, Cardinal Spellman, undated
		Pins
	16	10 Years Member of Assembly of New York, ca. 1963
	17	American Legion, undated
	18	Civil Defense N.Y.C., undated
	19	Dr. Abraham Ehrenfeld Award, Citizenship, undated
	20	Florida, 1971, undated
	21	Kennedy, 1964
	22	National Urban League, 5 years of Service, undated
	23	Representative Vitín Negrón, undated
	24	Retired New York City Employees Association, Member, undated
	25	Selective Service System, Member, undated
	26	Trujillo Alto, 1801, undated
		Ribbons
	27	Association of Hispanic Judges, Día de Justicia, II Law Day, Church of the Incarnation, 1988
	28	Democratic State Convention, New York, NY, Assistant Secretary, 1954
		Sashes
	29	Asst. Grand Marshal, undated
	30	Marshal Aide, undated
	31-32	Marshal's Aide, undated
	33	Marshall's Aide, undated
	34	President, San Juan Fiesta, 1958-1959