



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Myran E. Haley legal documents

1977-1992

Sc MG 475

Summary

Creator: Haley, My

Title: Myran E. Haley legal documents

Date: 1977-1992

Size: 1 folder

Abstract: Myran E. Haley (My Haley) is the third wife of the well-known writer Alex Haley. They were married in 1977 although they were legally separated at the time of his death in 1992. Myran Haley claimed she assisted Alex Haley in finishing "Roots," published in 1976. She also stated in court documents that she was a collaborator on at least three of his unpublished works: "Queen," (the story of his Caucasian ancestry), "Madame C. J. Walker," and "Henning," a collection of stories about Haley's boyhood summers at his grandmother's home in western Tennessee. The Myran E. Haley Legal Documents relate to the suit filed by Myran Haley against George Haley (Alex Haley's brother), and the Haley Estate regarding ownership of three literary works Haley was working on at the time of his death: "Merging" aka "Queen," "Madam C. J. Walker," and "Henning." She claimed co-ownership of these works and the right to complete the manuscripts. A compromise judgment was rendered giving her partial (15%) ownership rights. Documents include photocopies of Myran Haley's complaint, her affidavit, Alex Haley's will, their prenuptial agreement, and the partial compromise judgment.

Preferred citation: [Item], Myran E. Haley legal documents, Sc MG 475, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Myran E. Haley (My Haley) is the third wife of the well-known writer Alex Haley. They were married in 1977 although they were legally separated at the time of his death in 1992. Myran Haley claimed she assisted Alex Haley in finishing "Roots," published in 1976. She also stated in court documents that she was a collaborator on at least three of his unpublished works: "Queen," (the story of his Caucasian ancestry), "Madame C. J. Walker," and "Henning," a collection of stories about Haley's boyhood summers at his grandmother's home in western Tennessee.

Scope and Content Note

The Myran E. Haley Legal Documents relate to the suit filed by Myran Haley against George Haley (Alex Haley's brother), and the Haley Estate regarding ownership of three literary works Haley was working on at the time of his death: "Merging" aka "Queen," "Madam C. J. Walker," and "Henning." She claimed co-ownership of these works and the right to complete the manuscripts. A compromise judgment was rendered giving her partial (15%) ownership rights. Documents include photocopies of Myran Haley's complaint, her affidavit, Alex Haley's will, their prenuptial agreement, and the partial compromise judgment.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American women authors
Authors and publishers -- United States
Authorship -- Collaboration
Black author
Civil procedure -- United States
Copyright -- United States
Copyright infringement -- United States
Intellectual property -- United States
Legal documents

Names

Haley, Alex
Haley, Alex. Henning. Henning.
Haley, Alex. Madam C. J. Walker. Madam C. J. Walker.
Haley, Alex. Queen. Queen.
Haley, My