



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Justice James Kent's People v. Croswell papers

1804-1805

MssCol 1636

Summary

Creator: Kent, James, 1763-1847

Title: Justice James Kent's People v. Croswell papers

Date: 1804-1805

Size: .21 linear feet (1 volume)

Abstract: This collection is comprised of Justice James Kent's records concerning the case *The People of the State of New York v. Harry Croswell* (1804). Journalist Harry Croswell was charged for criminal libel for his statements against President Thomas Jefferson. The papers include summaries of arguments from both sides, notably a speech by Alexander Hamilton including his 15 proposals in favor of Croswell and the liberty of the press. Also present are citations of foreign law, a brief history of the case, Kent's opinion in favor of a new trial, and Kent's objections to a libel bill in the New York legislature. Of interest is a page of Alexander Hamilton's notes on the case

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Justice James Kent's People v. Croswell papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Key Terms

Subjects

Freedom of the press -- United States -- Cases

Libel and slander -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Legal documents

Names

Kent, James, 1763-1847

Croswell, Harry, 1778-1858

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826