

5-2010

# LG MS 17 Susan Farnsworth Papers Finding Aid

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**SUSAN FARNSWORTH PAPERS  
LG MS 17**

**Total Boxes: 1  
Total Mapcase Drawers: 1  
Linear Feet: 2.25**

**By  
Karin A. France**

**Portland, Maine  
May 2010**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: The Susan Farnsworth Papers were created and/or compiled by Susan Farnsworth, who donated the material in 2006.

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Cite as: Susan Farnsworth Papers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

## **Biographical Sketch**

Susan Farnsworth earned her undergraduate degree from Bates College in 1969 and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maine School of Law in 1976.

From 1976 through 1987, she worked for the Maine State government in a variety of positions, including as Chief Counsel in the Governor's Office of Employee Relations; Section Chief of the division of Attorney General Department serving the Maine Department of Labor; and Legal Advisor to the State Division of Community Services. Previously, she had worked for the City of Lewiston as Program Coordinator for Manpower and Economic Development for Lewiston's Model Cities Program.

From 1988-1994, she served three two-year terms as the Representative from District 91 (then Hallowell, Chelsea, and Pittston) in the State of Maine Legislature. As a Representative, she was a member of the Legislature's Joint Standing Committees on Judiciary and Taxation and chaired the Legislative Commission on Oil Spill Prevention. In 2001, she served for part of the year as Interim City Manager for the City of Hallowell.

In 1990, Farnsworth opened a private law practice in Hallowell, which she continues to operate at present as a solo practice, "Susan Farnsworth, Attorney at Law."

In addition to her professional activities, Farnsworth has also been active in the LGBT community, serving as a Board Member of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, 1987-89, and a member of the Executive Committee and an organizer of "Yes on 6" PAC in the Statewide Referendum Campaign in 2000, among other activities. Her current professional and community involvement includes the following positions:

- Vice-Chair of the Greater Augusta Utility District
- Co-Chair, Hallowell Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
- Member, Hallowell Area Board of Trade
- Member, Rainbow Business and Professional Association, and

- Member of the Kennebec Valley Art Association.

Biographical information primarily taken from: [www.susanfarnsworth.com](http://www.susanfarnsworth.com)

### Description of the Papers

The Papers primarily consist of materials related to issues of discrimination, particularly in regards to the lesbian and gay community, both nationally and in Maine. Most notably, this includes information about the 2000 civil rights bill, L.D. 2239, and efforts by "Yes on 6" to ensure the bill was sustained in a public referendum. (It was voted down by an extremely narrow margin). Information from groups opposing gay rights, most notably the Christian Civic League, is also present.

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Letter from Jack Wyman (Christian Civic League of Maine) re: University of Maine's non-discrimination clause	1987
	2	University of Southern Maine - Political Events, Flyers	undated
	3	"Working Together and Winning: A Progressive Policy and Coalition Strategy Conference" Materials (UAW Event) and United Labor Action Newsletter	1987 Sep
	4	Journal of Proceedings (US Supreme Court): Rowland v. Mad River Local School District, Montgomery County, Ohio	1985 Feb 26
	5	L.D. 2239: Background Information, Yes on 6 Materials, Press, Election Results, and Christian Civic League Materials (including Cameron study) See also Oversize	2000
	6	"What does Louis Palau want from Maine?" Article re: Mission Maine sponsored visit	1999 Apr 15
	7	Conseco: Pinetree Retirement Planning (brochure)	undated
<b>Oversize</b>			
Mapcase 4 Drawer 28		Poster, "VOTE YES ON 6 FOR EQUAL RIGHTS," Public Interest Forum with Susan Farnsworth (2 c.) (Folder 5)	[2000]