

Guide to the Amy Ayoub Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ayoub, Amy, 1951-
Title:	Amy Ayoub Papers
ID:	MS-01157
Date [inclusive]:	1906 to 2022
Date [bulk]:	1949 to 2019
Physical Description:	6.49 Cubic Feet (9 boxes, 1 oversized box)
Physical Description:	6.23 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	885 Digital Files (17.521 GB) JPG, MPG, MP4
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Amy Ayoub Papers (1906-2022) document the life and career of Amy Ayoub, a long-time resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, research, and other material that document the numerous facets of Ayoub's life. The collection covers many areas: Ayoub's early childhood; her family, including father Bobby Ayoub and stepfather Raymond Sutton; her financial consulting career and political work; her experience working as a prostitute in Nevada and subsequent documentary about being sex trafficked and working in brothels; time spent as the first female Nevada Athletic Commissioner; and more. Digital files include audio and video files of Mike Tyson's 2002 licensure hearing, and video of Ayoub's testimony before the Nevada State Assembly Judiciary Committee for Assembly Bill 67 in 2013. There are also digitized photographs that Ayoub used for the documentary <i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> .

Preferred Citation

Amy Ayoub Papers, 1906-2022. MS-01157. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1kf64>

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Biographical Note

Amy Ayoub is a long-time resident of Las Vegas, and has participated in political and community activism for over three decades. Amy Ayoub was born March 27, 1951 in Washington, D.C. to Robert "Bobby" Ayoub and Jane Flaherty Ayoub. Shortly after she was born, the family moved to Havana, Cuba, where her father worked as a card dealer. In 1953, the family relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada. Jane Flaherty divorced Bobby Ayoub in the late 1950s and later remarried attorney Raymond Sutton.

In 1968, Amy was sent to Caliente Girls Training Center (now Caliente Youth Center) in Caliente, Nevada. Amy graduated from high school a semester early while in Caliente, and moved to Portugal to live with her father. In February 1969, she moved back to Las Vegas and was almost immediately sex trafficked, unable to leave that life for a number of years. This continued until the summer of 1975, when Amy escaped to Monte Carlo to reunite with her father. When she returned to Las Vegas in February 1976, she began her life over and immediately started working at the Holiday Casino. It was there where she met owner Claudine Williams, who became a strong influence and close friend. Amy worked as Claudine's executive assistant until 1984. Over the next two decades, Amy volunteered and worked on various political campaigns, including with Governor (later Senator) Richard Bryan.

In 1998, Amy started Ayoub & Associates, a fundraising and financial consulting firm which she ran for 12 years. In 1999, Governor Kenny Guinn appointed Amy to the Nevada State Athletic Commission (the Boxing Commission) as the first female to hold the position. In April 2002, Ayoub resigned early from the commission after what she considered a "high point" in her career: leading the 4-1 decision against granting Mike Tyson a boxing license in Nevada. In 2010, she started *The Zen Speaker*, a business where she offers training and workshops on public speaking.

In February 2013, Amy testified before the Nevada State Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees, using her personal story working "in the life" as a sex worker and prostitute, in support of Assembly Bill 67, which increased penalties for those convicted of sex trafficking. Since that time, Amy has been an advocate for legislation and programs that support victims of sex and human trafficking. She worked with Robin Greenspun to create *The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence*, a documentary about Amy's life which premiered in March 2019. As of 2023, Amy resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source:

Conversation with Amy Ayoub, August 2023.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Amy Ayoub Papers (1906-2022) document the life and career of Amy Ayoub, a long-time resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, research, and other material that document the numerous facets of Ayoub's life. The collection covers many areas: Ayoub's early childhood; her financial consulting career and political work; her experience working as a prostitute in Nevada and subsequent documentary about being sex trafficked and working in brothels; time spent as the first female Nevada Athletic Commissioner; and more. The collection also contains material from Ayoub's father, Bobby Ayoub, a Las Vegas and international card dealer; and stepfather, Raymond Sutton, a prominent attorney. Digital files include audio and video files of Mike Tyson's 2002 licensure hearing, and video of Ayoub's testimony before the Nevada State Assembly Judiciary Committee for Assembly Bill 67 in 2013. There are also digitized photographs that Ayoub used for the documentary *The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence*.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2023 by Amy Ayoub; accession number 2023-053.

Appraisal

Acquired by Visual Materials Curator, Aaron Mayes, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on sexual entertainment and economies, sports and gaming, and Las Vegas history.

Processing Note

In 2023, Sarah Jones arranged and described the collection at the folder-level, entered the data into ArchivesSpace, and wrote the front matter description. Tammi Kim accessioned the born digital materials and Sarah Jones created access copies.

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Names and Subjects

- Boxing matches
- Prostitution
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Political campaigns
- Documentary films
- Businesswomen -- United States -- Nevada
- Nevada Athletic Commission

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Executive assistant and financial advising files	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial planning industry • Fund raising • Political campaigns • Williams, Claudine B. • Holiday Casino Holiday Inn (Las Vegas, Nevada) • Bryan, Richard H. 	
"The Holidays Holiday: Super Bowl XIV" photograph album, 1980	box 06
Holiday Casino and Landmark Hotel: newspaper clippings, name tag, and business cards, 1976 to 1984	box 08
"Tribute to Rex Bell" speech transcript by Amy Ayoub, 1994 April 29	box 08
Amy Ayoub and Claudine Williams at various events: photographs, 1985 to 1999	box 08

Claudine Williams memorial information, 2009 June	box 08
Amy Ayoub while working with Claudine Williams: photographic prints, 1976 to 1984	box 09
Press related to Amy Ayoub's financial work and Ayoub & Associates, 2000 to 2010	box 08
Autographed photographs to Amy Ayoub from celebrities and politicians: photographic prints, approximately 2000 to 2019	box 09
Amy Ayoub, Michelle Laxalt, and Adam Laxalt: photographic prints, 1989	box 09
Amy Ayoub with friends, family, and colleagues at various events: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 2019	box 09
Press and invited events, 2013 to 2019	box 08
Richard Bryan file: correspondence, campaign material, photographs, newsclippings, 1985 to 2010	box 08
Correspondence from political figures and photographs with Amy Ayoub, approximately 1990 to 2019	box 08
Nevada Athletic Commission (NAC) files	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxing • Boxing matches • Tyson, Mike, 1966- • Nevada Athletic Commission • Ali, Muhammad, 1942-2016 	
Access passes for boxing events, 1999 to 2002	box 03
Gans v. Nelson in Goldfield, Nevada: event program, 1906 September 03	box 03
"Nevada State Athletic Commission regulations and statutes" manual, 1989	box 03
Newspaper clippings and internet articles after 2001 Tyson hearing, 2002	box 03
Official appointment of Amy S. Ayoub to the Nevada Athletic Commission, 1999 November 22	box 03
Las Vegas, Nevada official boxing programs, 1979 to 2003 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 03
Compiled timeline of newsclippings and articles around Mike Tyson hearings and Las Vegas fights, 1996 to 2002	box 03
Official hearing proceedings and timeline for Mike Tyson and Nevada license, 1997 to 2002	box 04
Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers related to Nevada Athletic Commission, Mike Tyson, and Amy Ayoub, 1990 to 2002 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 04
Press about the 2001 Tyson hearing (national and international), 2001 to 2002	box 04

Proposed legislation for the Nevada Athletic Commission, 2000 to 2001	box 04
"Report to the Governor on the role of sanctioning organizations in Nevada's Boxing Industry", 2001 April	box 05
"Nevada Open Meeting Manual", 1998 January	box 05
Correspondence to Amy Ayoub regarding the 2001 Tyson hearing, 2001	box 05
Official resignation letter from Amy Ayoub to the Nevada Athletic Commission, 2002 May	box 05
World Boxing Association annual awards dinner program, 2000 April 21	box 05
Press release, correspondence, and newsclippings announcing Ayoub's appointment to the Nevada Athletic Commission, 1999	box 05
Muhammad Ali: photographic prints, approximately 1990 to 2002	box 05
Nevada Athletic Commission boxing recap and revenue summaries, 2000	box 05
"Muhammad Ali boxing bill" file, 2000	box 05
Amy Ayoub's official NAC badge, 1999	box 05
Silver Slipper boxing card and newspaper clipping, 1979 August	box 05
Nevada Athletic Commission: photographic prints, 1999 to 2002	box 05
Boxing match ephemera, approximately 1999 to 2002	box 05
Digital videos of 2002 Mike Tyson hearing and local Las Vegas news casts related to the hearing, 2002 (MS_01157_001; MS_01157_003)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 7 Digital Files (14.26 GB) MP3, M4V	
Assembly Bill 67 (AB67) testimony and <i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary files	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking • Documentary films • Sex work • Sex workers • Cortez Masto, Catherine, 1964- • Caliente Youth Center (Caliente, Nev.) 	
Caliente Youth Center: newspaper, student handbook, and correspondence, 2012 to 2013	box 09
B-roll footage used in <i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary including Caliente Youth Center, fundraisers, speeches, Springs Preserve workshop, and Stillpoint workshop: digital videos, 2017 to 2018 (MS_01157_005)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 169 Digital Files (89.002 GB) MP4	
Notecards from AB67 testimony, 2013 June	box 09
Amy Ayoub's testimony at the 77th Session Joint Meeting of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Judiciary hearing for Assembly Bill 67: digital video, 2013 February 20 (MS_01157_002)	digital file 00

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (2.021 GB) MP4

Senate Daily Journal from 77th Session of Nevada Legislature, 2013 May 31	box 09
Certificate of Recognition to Amy Ayoub from Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, 2013 June 06	box 09
Emails to Amy in support of her testimony for Assembly Bill 67 (AB67), 2013 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 07 oversized box 10
Letters to Amy in support of her testimony for Assembly Bill 67 (AB67), 2013	box 07
Assembly Bill 67 (AB67): newspaper clippings, "YES on AB67" pin, 2012 to 2013	box 09
Amy Ayoub: photographic prints, 1969 to 1973 Physical Description: 1 Files	box 06
Amy Ayoub in Paris, France: photographic prints, 1972 Physical Description: 1 Files	box 06
Marilyn, close friend to Amy Ayoub: photographic prints, approximately 1970 to 1999	box 06
Nichole Yegge's story newspaper clippings, 2008	box 09
Annika's story: <i>Las Vegas Review Journal</i> article, approximately 2008 to 2019	box 09
Sex and human trafficking studies, reports, and presentations, 2014 to 2018	box 09
"Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" protocols and strategic plan, 2018	box 09
<i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary, earbuds worn by producer, 2017 to 2018	box 07
<i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary fliers, 2019	box 07
<i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary cue cards, 2017 to 2018	box 07
Personal photographs (dating 1951-2017) digitized for use in <i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary, 2017 (MS_01157_004) Physical Description: 877 Digital Files (0.914 GB) JPG General: The original photographs for the majority of these digital copies exist throughout MS-01157.	digital file 00
Film festival passes, fliers, and programs for <i>The Zen Speaker: Breaking the Silence</i> documentary, 2018 to 2019 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 07 oversized box 10

Awards given to Amy Ayoub, approximately 1990 to 2019

Physical Description: 2 Files	box 08 oversized box 10
Amy Ayoub family and personal papers	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • photographs • Sobriety • Personal papers • Correspondence 	
Amy Ayoub and George Cornelius: photographic prints, 1976 to 1999 Physical Description: 1 Files	box 06
Amy with her dog Emerson: photographic prints, approximately 2000 to 2019	box 09
Amy and her sister Ellen: photographic prints, approximately 1949 to 2009	box 09
Amy with nieces Elizabeth and Sarah: photographic prints, approximately 1972 to 2009	box 09
Amy Ayoub and John Matheson wedding: photographic prints, approximately 1982 April 24	box 09
Amy Ayoub: photographs, approximately 1970 to 1999	box 09
Two sobriety tokens, approximately 1980 to 1981	box 09
Untitled poem by Amy Ayoub, 1991 October 25	box 09
Address books, 1980 to 1999 Physical Description: 7 Items	box 07
Personal correspondence to Amy Ayoub from friends and family, approximately 1970 to 1989	box 09
Photobook to Amy on her birthday, 2022	oversized box 10
Amy Ayoub early childhood papers	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • photographs • Havana (Cuba) • Personal papers 	
Bishop Gorman High School yearbooks, 1966 to 1967 Physical Description: 2 Items	box 06
Jean Flaherty with parents, Bobby Ayoub, and children: photographic prints, approximately 1920 to 2000	box 06
Correspondence, travel documents, photographs, and Monte Carlo ephemera, 1975 to 1976 February	box 06

Elementary school class photographs, report card, and honor roll certificate for St. Joseph School, 1959 to 1965	box 06
Amy Ayoub: photographic prints, 1951 to 1970 Physical Description: 14 Files	box 06
Early childhood (1950s) home movies of parents, Cuba, Amy as a young child: digital files, 2017 (MS_01157_005) Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (1.612 GB) M4V	digital file 00
Robert Ayoub papers	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Havana (Cuba) • Card dealers • Blackjack (Game) • Las Vegas casino dealers • Riviera Hotel & Casino (Las Vegas Strip, Nev.) 	
Divorce complaint and summons for Robert and Elizabeth Ayoub, 2001 August to 2001 September	box 01
Funeral service program for Robert Ayoub, 2001 August 28 to 2001 August 29	box 01
Newspaper clippings announcing death of Robert Ayoub, 2001 August	box 01
Prayer cards, 2001 August 29	box 01
Condolence cards and spiritual gifts to Ayoub family, 2001 August	box 01
Newspaper clippings and notes related to Robert Ayoub's Riviera blackjack arrest, 1984	box 01
"Bobby Ayoub's Original Dealer School" brochure, news story, and photocopied clipping, 1974 to 1978	box 01
"How to Play Craps" by Robert Ayoub, book chapters and drafts, approximately 1990 to 1999	box 01
Robert Ayoub and Jane Flaherty Ayoub divorce proceedings, 1959 to 1962	box 01
Robert Ayoub resume and dealer's registration card, 1953	box 01
Robert Ayoub passports, Nevada drivers license, carte de sejour for Monaco, and registration certificate for Nigeria, approximately 1975 to 1989	box 01
Correspondence to Robert Ayoub, 1980 to 2001	box 01
Robert Ayoub with family, children, and posed in a casino: photographic prints, approximately 1940 to 2001	box 01
Taped phone conversations between Bobby Ayoub and Charles Herendeen: transcripts, 1984 April 19 to 1984 May 02	box 01
United States vs. Robert Ayoub, Edward Brown, Frank Burns, Alvin Burks, Robert Burnett: indictment, 1984 May	box 01
Testimony of Charles Plemmons, 1984 May 15	box 01

Testimony of Charles Herendeen, 1984 May	box 01
Ayoub family correspondence, approximately 1950 to 2007	box 01
United States vs. Robert Ayoub, et al: sentencing, 1984 November	box 01
Death certificate and mortuary service information, 2001 August	box 01
Raymond E. Sutton papers	
Names and Subjects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers • Las Vegas (Nev.) • Divorce 	
Correspondence from Raymond Sutton to Jean Flaherty, 1960 to 1972	box 02
Las Vegas, Nevada newspapers reference Sutton trial, 1969 to 1972	box 02
Raymond E. Sutton: photographic prints, 1962 to 1971	box 02
Legal documents and divorce papers for Jean Flaherty and Raymond Sutton, 1969 to 1974	box 02