

**L2007.09  
Bob McWilliams  
Collection, 1976-2000**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Ethan Lopez

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

Bob McWilliams donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

This collection was processed by Ethan Lopez as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

**EXTENT**

Number of containers: 2  
Linear feet of shelf space: 0.75

**ABSTRACT**

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

Robert (Bob) McWilliams and Charles McKain were LGBT rights and Democratic Party activists in San Diego for over three decades. They regularly sponsored San Diego Democratic Club (SDCC) events and gatherings at their home. They were married in June of 2008.

Charles McKain was a staff attorney for the Fourth District of the California Court of Appeals and served on the board of the SDCC for many years. He served as vice president, treasurer, and political action director, and was the clubs delegate to LIFE Lobby, a legislative advocacy federation of LGBT and AIDS organizations and individuals. In 1980, he was one of the first openly gay delegates from San Diego to the Democratic National Convention, and served as a delegate again in 1992, 1996, and 2000. During the San Diego 1990-1991 redistricting process, he proposed boundaries for the Third District that united communities with high concentrations of LGBT voters. McKain received the SDCC Political Action and Lifetime Achievement Awards, the Henry Auerbach Democrat of the Year Award from the San Diego County Democratic Party and was recognized when the San Diego City Council declared July 8, 2008, as "Charles McKain Day." McKain passed away on March 17, 2012.

Bob McWilliams was also extremely active in the San Diego Democratic Club, particularly in the Point Loma branch. He continued his activism after McKain's passing and was active until his death in February of 2014.

Sources: <https://obrag.org/2012/03/ocean-beach-and-peninsula-gay-rights-advocate-charles-mckain-passes/> ; <https://www.baltimoresun.com/sdut-democrat-was-pioneer-delegate-advanced-lgbt-causes-2012mar29-story.html> ; <https://pointlomadem.org/2015/03/12/notes-from-februarys-meeting-labor-and-the-democratic-party/>; Previous Lambda Archives volunteer Hartlyn Haynes

## **COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains material relevant to early LGBT activism, especially by Charles McKain with the San Diego Democratic Club between the mid-70's to mid-90's. Much of the activism deals with securing equal rights in terms of housing and labor practices for the LGBT community and addressing the AIDs crisis. Some of the materials included are periodicals, clippings, correspondence, speech outlines, personal notes, ephemera, agendas, and minutes. Much of the work related to McKain deals with Bob Filner's redistricting plan which resulted in the creation of the 3rd City Council District. Other highlights include responses to Pete Wilson's rejection of Assembly Bill 101, and the 1980's Democratic national Convention in which McKain was one of the first openly gay delegates.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection consists of 2 boxes divided into 2 series:

- Series I: Politics
- Series II: News

## **SEPARATED MATERIAL**

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. Photos:
  - a. P341.001-.047
2. T-shirts:
  - a. T0408 – T0410
3. Buttons:
  - a. 1 loose button

## **SUBJECTS**

San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC), Brad Truax, Charles McKain, Bob McWilliams, Wilson, AB 101, CA Lesbian and Gay Delegation Democratic National Convention, GLLO, ACT UP, The Center, ACLU, Life AIDS Lobby, SDCC, Blood Sisters, Human Relations Commission, National Gay Task Force, The Blade, San Diego Union Tribune, Update, Los Angeles Times, Gay and Lesbian Times, The Sentinel, Bravo!, AIDS/HIV, Boycotts, Civil Rights Laws, Political Parties, Politics

## CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply. Lambda Archives of San Diego does not hold copyright to the Bob McWilliams Collection. It is incumbent upon the researcher to procure permission to publish information from this collection from the owner of copyright.

## PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]

Bob McWilliams Collection, 1976-2000

Lambda Archives of San Diego

San Diego, California

## RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.44, L2014.02

## LOCATION NOTE

C.11.1.3

## LANGUAGES

English

## CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	AB 1 Employment Non-Discrimination	1978-1980	
1	2	CA Lesbian & Gay Delegation Democratic National Convention	1979-1980	
1	3	Responses to Wilson Veto of AB 101	1980-1991	
1	4	Miscellany Correspondence	1980	
1	5	National Gay Task Force and National Association of Gay and Lesbian Club Newsletters	1980-1985	
1	6	Blood Sisters	1990-1991	
1	7	Minutes and Agendas of SDCC	1990-1991	
1	8	SDCC Programs and Pamphlets	1985-1995	

1	9	SDCC Newsletters	1985-1995	
1	10	Miscellany SDCC	1980-1992	
2	1	Human Relations Commission	1991	
2	2	Ephemera and Pamphlets		
2	3	Miscellany	1979-1991	
2	4	Speech Transcripts	1992	
2	5	The Blade	1980	
2	6	The Sentinel	1980	
2	7	San Diego Union Clippings	1980-1991	
2	8	Los Angeles Times News Clippings	1986-1991	
2	9	Bravo! News Magazine Wilson AB 101 Veto	1989-1991	
2	10	San Diego Union Clippings	1990-1991	
2	11	Update News Clippings	1990-1991	
2	12	Miscellany Newspapers	1980-2000	