



Collection 6

Name and Location of Repository:

Northwestern Health Sciences University, Greenawalt Library. 2501 West 84th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431. 952-885-5419. library@nwhealth.edu

Title: Collection on Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, et al. vs. United States Commissioner of Education, et al.

Dates: 1979

Extent: 1 box

Name of Collector: Unknown, possibly Northwestern College of Chiropractic / Northwestern Health Sciences University or John B. Wolfe, Sr.

Administrative History (Written by Corinne Florin, October 2004)

In 1979 Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic in Spartanburg, SC, and Adio Institute of Straight Chiropractic* of Levittown, PA, sued the U.S. Commission of Education and the Council of Chiropractic Education (CCE), claiming they were wrongfully denied accreditation. (Although both schools were involved, the lawsuit emphasized Sherman.) The two schools charged that the Commission discriminated against them because the schools hold to and teach only “straight” chiropractic, as opposed to the “mixer” philosophy of most other schools.

Sherman and Adio jointly claimed that the denial of accreditation has cost them students, both by losing their current students to other schools, and from fewer prospective students applying. The schools held that the CCE was forcing them to teach what is known as the “mixer” style of chiropractic, which incorporates not only treatment of the spine but also the extremities. The “mixer” type of chiropractic may also use tools such as ultrasound and weight equipment as well as his or her hands. (Definition obtained from http://www.fact-index.com/m/mi/mixing_chiropractic.html.)

Sherman accused the CCE of telling them how to run their school and what their philosophy should be. The school contended that accreditation has been unduly curtailed even though they provide quality chiropractic education. In reply, the CCE stated they monitor only basic standards and eligibility requirements, and that they denied Sherman and Adio accreditation because there was:

- Insufficient evidence that Sherman College would operate a teaching clinic;
- Lack of assurance that control was vested in a board;
- Unsound planning in areas such as curriculum and laboratory training, human dissection, and commitment of preparing portal-of-health care providers.

According to Laurence W. Kessenick, Esq., of the law firm of Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos, and Rudy, on behalf of the CCE, “CCE does not dictate to its colleges that they be straight, mixer, or that they espouse any particular chiropractic philosophy. It does require, however, that the students be properly trained to be primary care providers and an essential component of this training involves the diagnostic disciplines.... It is this knowledge and the teaching of it which SCASA and its colleges fundamentally

reject.” In addition, Adio Institute was not authorized by the State of Pennsylvania to grant Doctor of Chiropractic degrees, which in itself precludes accreditation.

*Adio Institute became the Pennsylvania College of Straight Chiropractic in 1978; the word “straight” was dropped from its name in 1994. The school is no longer in existence.

More information on the straight-mixer debate, including discussion of the Sherman court case represented in this collection, can be found in Simon A. Senzon’s article “Chiropractic Professionalization and Accreditation: An Exploration of the History of Conflict Between Worldviews Through the Lens of Developmental Structuralism,” available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245701/>.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of copies of legal records. Former library technician Corinne Florin arranged and described the collection in October 2004. The materials may have been collected and donated by Northwestern College of Chiropractic founder and former president John B. Wolfe, Sr.

Conditions Governing Access: None

Physical Access: Materials are housed in archival storage and may require advance notice for access. Older materials have sustained some damage and should be used with caution.

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Languages and Scripts of Material: English

Other Finding Aids: None known

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Related Archival Materials: None

Publication Note: None known

System of Arrangement – created by Corinne Florin, October 2004. See folder titles for more information regarding collection contents.

Box 1

Folder 1: Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points

Folder 2: Plaintiffs' Exhibits in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment

Folder 3: Plaintiffs' Statements of Material Facts

Folder 4: Plaintiffs' Comments on Government's Statement of Material Facts

Folder 5: Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on All Issues

Folder 6: Affidavit

Folder 7: Affidavit in Support of Defendants' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment

Folder 8: Reply Brief of Council on Chiropractic Education

Folder 9: Proposed Order

Finding Aid Description Information

Sources used: Previous edition of finding aid, collection materials

Prepared by: Monica R. Howell, serials librarian and archivist

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