

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WESTERN ARCHIVES**



**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**

**AFC 7**

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – February 2010

**WESTERN ARCHIVES  
AFC 17  
LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**

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**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**  
**AFC 7**  
**FONDS DESCRIPTION**

**Dates**

1885-1887

**Extent**

1 cm of textual records  
1 volume of textual records

**Administrative History**

The formation of a law school in London, Ontario was first proposed in 1885, when a group of young men studying to become attorneys decided they could benefit from lectures given by local practicing judges and lawyers. The London Law School was then founded in November, 1885 in conjunction with the Middlesex Law Association.

Regular lectures were given every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by some of the London area's most prominent lawyers and judges, including David Mills, William R. Meredith, and George C. Gibbons. The inaugural lecture was delivered on December 4, 1885.

The statute to affiliate London Law School with Western University was initially rejected by Ontario education minister George William Ross, but the statute did eventually pass on its second attempt. Despite the statute having been passed, the Law Society of Upper Canada refused to recognize the exams written at London Law School as being equivalent to their own. The number of enrolments quickly dwindled, and by 1887 there were only two students registered for lectures. Lectures were cancelled permanently late in 1887. A small group of men attempted to keep the London Law School functional; in 1889, however, the Law Society of Upper Canada passed a regulation requiring all law students to complete three years of work at Toronto's Osgoode Hall law school. The London Law School officially ceased operations in 1889. The University of Western Ontario did not have a law school again until 1959, when the Faculty of Law was established.

Some of the students who were registered with the London Law School included Hume Blake Cronyn, Sr., Newton W. Rowell, T.W. Scandrett, Alexander Purdom, and A.D. Scatcherd.

**Scope and Content**

This fonds contains records relating to the founding and operation of the short-lived London Law School. Lecture schedules, correspondence, legal documents and a register book are included.

**Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Register book
- Series 2: Lecture schedules and related documents
- Series 3: Founding documents
- Series 4: Registrar's correspondence
- Series 5: Sessional booklet

**Finding Aids**

File and item lists are available.

**Related Material**

A copy of the sessional booklet, found in series 5 of this fonds, is available as a bound volume in the Western Archives reading room under call number LE3.W52g1.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The register, presumably with the loose papers inserted, was discovered by Fred Landon, librarian at the University of Western Ontario, in a vault on university property in August, 1938.

**Conditions Governing Access**

No restrictions on access.

**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**  
**AFC 7**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 1      Register book**

**Dates**

1885-1886

**Extent**

1 volume of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains the register book for the London Law School. Minutes of meetings, draft by-laws, and details of lecturer schedules are included.

**File/Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Register of London Law School [vol.]	1885-1886	AFC 7-1-1

**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**  
**AFC 7**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 2      Lecture schedules and related documents**

**Dates**

1885-1887

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains lecture schedules for the London Law School. Petitions by students to change the lecture hours are also included.

**File/Item List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Lecture schedules and related documents	1885-1887	AFC 7-1-2

**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS  
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 3      Founding documents**

**Dates**

1886

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains documents relating to the founding of London Law School. A statute to establish a faculty of law in connection with the “Western University and College of London Ontario” and a return to the Lieutenant-Governor to disallow that same statute are included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Founding documents	1886	AFC 7-1-3



**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**  
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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 4 Registrar's correspondence**

**Dates**

1886-1887

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains a small amount of correspondence received by London Law School's registrar, W.H. Bartram. Letters and post cards from prospective students requesting admissions and curriculum information predominate.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Registrar's incoming correspondence	1886-1887	AFC 7-1-4

**LONDON LAW SCHOOL FONDS**  
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**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

**Series 5      Sessional booklet**

**Dates**

1886

**Extent**

1 folder of textual records

**Scope and Content**

This series contains a booklet published by the London Law School for students in its 1885-1886 session. Details of faculty, administration, rules, and fees are included.

**File List**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box/File</b>
Sessional booklet	1886	AFC 7-1-5