
Material noted **in bold** within this collection is currently available for research use. If a folder is available for research use it may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequent withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc. Any non-bolded folder is closed for research.

The non-bolded folders are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

If you are interested in submitting a FOIA request for access to any of the unavailable records or have any questions about these collections or series, please contact our archival staff at 1-800-410-8354, outside the US at 1-805-577-4012, or email reagan.library@nara.gov.

BRADLEY, MELVIN L.: Files 1981-1983

Public Liaison, Office of, 1983-1989 - [See Separate Inventory](#)

Special Assistant to the President

**Biography**

Melvin Leroy Bradley was born on January 6, 1938 in Texarkana, Texas. He spent his youth in Texas and graduated from local Dunbar High School in 1955.

After his high school graduation, Mr. Bradley moved with his family to Los Angeles, California. There he worked in a variety of occupations while periodically continuing his education. He worked as a launderer, clerk, postal carrier for the United States Postal Service and as a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. During this time he attended college classes at Los Angeles Community College and Compton College. In 1970, he left the Sheriff’s Department to attend Pepperdine University in Malibu, California and to work for the Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, as assistant for community affairs. He graduated in 1973 with a B.S. degree. He continued his work for Governor Reagan through the end of 1975.

After leaving the Governor’s Office, Bradley worked as director of public relations for the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School of Los Angeles from 1975-1977. He served as assistant to the vice president and account executive with United Airlines in 1977-1981. Mr. Bradley was a staff member of the Office of the President-Elect serving as special adviser to the director of the office of Presidential personnel.

From the beginning of the administration, Mr. Bradley was a Senior Policy Adviser within the Office of Policy Development staff, focusing on urban affairs and small business. He continued, on an ad hoc basis, as an adviser to Presidential Personnel on minority appointments.

Mr. Bradley was promoted in April 1982 to a Special Assistant to the President for Policy Development. He was transferred at this time from the payroll of the Office of Policy

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Development to the Counsellor to the President (Edwin Meese) payroll. This was primarily done to assure Bradley was not covered by the Hatch Act and could participate actively in the 182 mid-term elections. At the time, his primary responsibilities were working with the Office of Policy Development staff to assure that policy analyses for the President were sensitive to the needs and priorities of the minority and disadvantaged communities.

In August 1983, Counsellor to the President, Edwin Meese, authorized a “temporary” transfer of Mr. Bradley to the White House staff working in the Office of Public Liaison. He retained his title of Special Assistant to the President for Policy Development. For some time he had been operating as an independent public liaison with the black community and this move formalized that function. His move was made permanent in 1986 although he retained his office space with the Policy Development Office throughout his time at the White House. He also continued his advisory role on minority appointments. Bradley remained with Public Liaison until he resigned in early February 1989.

Mr. Bradley is married to the former Ruth Ann Terry and they have four children.

**Scope and Content Note**

Our initial survey of the Bradley collection shows a much larger emphasis on public liaison work regarding minority and urban issues. In addition, Mr. Bradley was heavily involved with recruitment, assignment, and vetting of minority candidates for appointments within the Reagan administration. These functions began in his earliest days at the White House and continued until he left. Given this evidence, we have placed the majority of material within the Office of Public Liaison collection for Mr. Bradley, although a good deal of material predates 1983.

We have retained a small amount of correspondence and chronological files clearly marked as pre-1983 for this Office of Policy Development Bradley collection. This material also includes records from the Office of the President-Elect which Bradley carried with him to the White House and used in his time there.

OA 9004
[General Correspondence] October 1980
[General Correspondence] November 1980
[General Correspondence] December 1980
[General Correspondence] January 1981
[General Correspondence] February 1981
[General Correspondence] March 1981
[General Correspondence] April 1981
[General Correspondence] May 1981
[General Correspondence] June 1981
[General Correspondence] July 1981
[General Correspondence] August 1981
[General Correspondence] September 1981

OA 9005
[General Correspondence] October 1981
[General Correspondence] November 1981

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[General Correspondence] December 1981
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[General Correspondence] March 1982
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[General Correspondence] May 1982

OA 9006

[General Correspondence] June 1982
[General Correspondence] July 1982
[General Correspondence] August 1982
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[Correspondence] January 1982
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OA 09687

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OA 09688

[Correspondence] June 1983
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[Correspondence] August 1983
[Chrons January 1981-February 1981]
[Chrons May 1981]
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[Chrons July 1981]
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[Chrons October 1981]
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[Chrons March 1982]
[Chrons June 1982]
[Chrons July 1982]
[Chrons] January 1983-December 1983
[General Correspondence] 1981-1982
[General Correspondence1982]
[General Correspondence] 01/12/1981-11/18/1981
[General Correspondence] 09/02/1982-12/30/1982
8a Correspondence 1982