



Romano, Neil: Files, 1982-1988

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Drug Abuse Policy Office, White House

Disclaimer

This collection is available in whole for research use. Some folders may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequently withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc.

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Neil Romano graduated *summa cum laude* from New York University in 1976 in with a degree in history and political science. He received a master's degree from Brown University in political science in 1978.

Romano specializes in the marketing of ideas and messages to help save lives and promote public policy. In 1982, Romano joined the Department of Health and Human Services where he developed a film and supporting materials entitled, "Youth Homicide: A Public Health Crisis." For this film, Romano was nominated for an Emmy award in the Best Producer category.

In 1985, Romano accepted a position in the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office as a detailee from the Department of Health and Human Services working on public awareness and communications campaigns for drug abuse and AIDS policy. Romano was promoted as Director of Communications for the Drug Abuse Policy Office in April 1988. He remained in the White House through 1988.

Since leaving the White House, Romano has had multiple positions in the private/non-profit sector including founding Romano & Associates for producing public awareness programs and "America's Strength" which promotes the importance of hiring individuals with disabilities. He has been a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Romano has also served a number of diverse boards of directors, including the United Cerebral Palsy of Central Maryland, Oral Health America, the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society, and the , Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled.

Additionally he has advised the Association for People in Supported Employment, the U.S. Business Leadership Network, and other disability employment groups with use a "business to business" approach to promote the hiring of people with disabilities.

In 2007 President George W. Bush nominated Romano as the second Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy at the Department of Labor. He was confirmed in March 2008 and served until the end of the George W. Bush Administration. In 2015, Romano was appointed to the independent federal agency, the National Council on Disability. In March 2018, Senator Mitch McConnell, reappointed Romano for a three year term to the Council and later that month President Trump named Romano as the new Chairman of the National Council on Disability.

Romano is married and has two adult daughters. He lives with his family in Clarksville, Maryland

Scope and Content Note

Romano focused on developing the Drug Abuse Policy Office's (DAPO) communications campaigns. He worked with outside agencies and private companies to incorporate anti-drug abuse and AIDS policy messages into general media campaigns aimed at the wider public.

This collection consists of proposals, memos, letters, newspaper articles, and audio-visual material developed, used or sent to Romano for use during the course of his work. All audio-visual material is stored with Reagan Library Audio-Visual collections for preservation purposes. This collection consists of two series. The series are as follows: SERIES I: AIDS FILE and SERIES II: DRUG ABUSE FILE.

Series List

SERIES I: AIDS FILE

The material in this series consists of a film reel that was transferred to the Reagan Library Audio/Visual department as well as a final draft of the Summary of National Opinion Polls on AIDS that was sent to Neil Romano by the American Red Cross.

SERIES II: DRUG ABUSE POLICY FILES

The material within this series consists of background information on KUTV's (Salt Lake City, UT) educational programming aimed at spreading information about drug abuse in America, as well as other communications campaigns proposed to Romano. Also included are press reports on the fight against drug abuse, background information on state legislation that impacted drug abuse; notes on upcoming interviews, and routine office memos from/to [Carlton Turner](#).

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

SERIES I: AIDS FILE

The material in this series consists of a film reel that was transferred to the Reagan Library Audio/Visual department as well as a final draft of the Summary of National Opinion Polls on AIDS that was sent to Neil Romano by the American Red Cross.

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	"AIDS: Let's Give America the Facts" [Transferred to Audio/Visual]
OPEN	1988 AIDS Information Monitor (1)-(5)

SERIES II: DRUG ABUSE POLICY FILES

The material within this series consists of background information on KUTV's (Salt Lake City, UT) educational programming aimed at spreading information about drug abuse in America, as well as other communications campaigns proposed to Romano. Also included are press reports on the fight against drug abuse, background information on state legislation that impacted drug abuse; notes on upcoming interviews, and routine office memos from/to [Carlton Turner](#).

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1 (continued)

Status	Title
OPEN	"The Americans - Biographies of a Nation" - National Fitness Foundation
OPEN	Andrew Lluberes - USIA 09/04/1985 10:30 am
OPEN	"Drug Abuse in America: Targeting the Problem" - The Von Noy Group Proposal (Binder)
OPEN	Drug Abuse Policy Office Communication Implementation Strategies 1982-1986 (Binder) (1)-(3)
OPEN	Drug Testing Hearing 05/07/1986
OPEN	KUTV (1983-1984) Substance Abuse Campaigns (Binder) (1)-(3)
OPEN	KUTV (1985) - "Your Choice" (Binder) (1)

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	KUTV (1985) – “Your Choice” (Binder) (2)(3)
OPEN	KUTV (11/10/1987) – “Don’t Take the Bait” [re: White House Conference for a Drug Free America Presentation]
OPEN	Oregon (1)(2)
OPEN	Peru Briefing 09/13/1985 4:45 pm
OPEN	<i>Pharmacy Times</i> – January 1987 Issue
OPEN	[Religious Panel]

OA 19044 (The following material has been moved to A/V for storage)

Status	Title
OPEN	10/07/1987 Bubba Smith, "Best Defenders" (Video Tape)
OPEN	April 1987 "Cocaine, The Big Lie" 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	12/02/1987 Bill Cosby, "Black Artists Against Drugs" 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	05/20/1987 DHHS/A&M Records, "Just Say No" Spots 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	06/15/1987 Chris Evert 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	01/01/1988 Kids Summit Against Drugs 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	1986 NORML/OMNI Conference 3/4 (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 "Mirrors" VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 U.S. Border Patrol, "Demand Reduction" VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 Kids Drug & Alcohol VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 A Gift of Life VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 Drugs at Work (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 "Don't Forget Sherrie" VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 Lookin' Good VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1988 Drug Avengers VHS (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 Testing DOJ (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 Drugs and Youth: The Challenge (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 Toward a Drug-Free America (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 Call Suzie I & II (Video Tape)
OPEN	1987 Guardians of the Forrest (Video Tape)

Status**Title**

OPEN

1987 Suicide: A Teacher Dilemma (Video Tape)