



## **Addington, David S.: Files, 1987-1988**

### **Finding Aid Type**

White House Staff and Office File Collections

### **Subtitle/Office**

Legislative Affairs, White House Office of

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### **Record Type**

Textual

### **Biography**

### **Biography**

David S. Addington (1957- ) is an American lawyer, public servant and conservative policy scholar.

Addington was born in Washington, DC in 1957. His father was Brigadier General Jerry Addington. Addington's childhood followed a typical military childhood pattern with many family moves and some time spent abroad.

During the Reagan Administration, Addington served in a wide variety of positions concluding at the White House. He was an assistant general counsel for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1981 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1987 Addington was counsel for the House committees on intelligence and foreign affairs. He served as a staff attorney on the joint U.S. House-Senate Committee investigation of the Iran-Contra affair as an assistant to Congressman Bill Broomfield (R-MI). Addington was also a special assistant and deputy assistant to President Ronald Reagan in the Office of Legislative Affairs at the White House, 1987-1988. His primary duties involved defense appropriations and lobbying for the efforts to maintain funding to the Nicaraguan resistance fighters (the "Contras")

Then Addington became heavily involved in both Bush Administrations. From 1989 to 1992, Addington served as special assistant to Richard "Dick" Cheney who was then Secretary of Defense. In 1992 President George H.W. Bush appointed Addington as the Department of Defense's General Counsel.

During the early years of the Clinton Administration, Addington returned to Congress and was the Republican staff director of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

In 1994-1995, Addington headed up a political action committee, the Alliance for American Leadership, set up to support Republican candidates for public office, with a principle focus on being a Presidential exploratory committee for Cheney, as the former Defense Secretary contemplated running for the 1996 Republican Presidential nomination.

From 1995 to 2001, Addington worked in private practice, for law firms Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz and Holland & Knight and the American Trucking Association.

He also provided extensive assistance to Dick Cheney when the latter was chief executive of the Halliburton Corporation and was in charge of vetting potential Presidential running mates for Texas Governor George W. Bush. His long association with Cheney paid off when Cheney was surprisingly chosen as Bush's Vice President.

After the election victory, Addington was appointed Counsel to the Vice President.

After he began working for Cheney, Addington was influential in numerous policy areas. He provided advice and drafted memoranda on many of the most controversial policies of the Bush Administration. Addington's influence strongly reflects his hawkish views on U.S. foreign policy, a position he has long held. As Vice Presidential counsel, Addington was known for his focus on the constitutional independence of the Vice President. He tried to protect the inner workings of the Office of the Vice President from investigations by the Government Accountability Organization (GAO) and private organizations.

In 2005, Addington was appointed the Chief of Staff for the Vice President after his previous Chief of Staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, resigned facing perjury and obstruction of justice charges. As Chief of Staff, Addington supervised the Vice President's staff. This title also included "Assistant to the President," and as such, Addington provided advice on behalf of the Vice President to White House staff.

Over the course of eight years, Addington was reportedly involved in the more visible controversies of the Bush Administration. Press reports state Addington took a leading role in pressing for the use of torture (so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques"), the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) "torture memos" justifying and legalizing torture, and the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance on United States citizens' telecommunications. Addington has neither confirmed nor denied any of these reports.

Press reports state that Addington consistently advocated the expansion of presidential powers and the "unitary executive theory," a nearly absolute deference to the executive branch from Congress and the judiciary. Addington stated in his sworn House Judiciary Committee testimony that he intends the term "unitary executive" to refer to the provision of the Constitution that vests all "executive power" in "a President" rather than in multiple officials or Congress.

Another controversy involved the oversight for declassification by the National Archives Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), Addington stating the Vice President was exempt from this oversight. He was pressed to provide depositions on this attitude, but the United States Court of Appeals District of Columbia overruled previous rulings and Addington did not have to testify on this position.

Addington, along with many other officials, was mentioned by title in Scooter Libby's indictment for five felony charges related to the Plame affair regarding the leak of the identity of a CIA officer, and he testified at the Libby trial.

A PBS *Frontline* documentary, "Cheney's Law" broadcast on October 16, 2007 detailed Addington's key role in Bush Administration policy making, and noted that he declined to be interviewed regarding his thoughts on the limits of executive privilege. On June 26, 2008, Addington testified under subpoena from the House Judiciary Committee along with former Justice Department attorney John Yoo in a contentious hearing on detainee treatment, interrogation methods and the extent of executive branch authority. This testimony was Addington's only public statement during his eight years as Cheney's Vice Presidential Counsel and Chief of Staff.

Human Rights Watch and *The New York Times* editorial board have called for investigation and prosecution of Addington for conspiracy to torture as well as other crimes.

In November 2006, the German government received a complaint seeking the prosecution of Addington and 15 other current and former U.S. government officials for alleged war crimes. The German Prosecutor General at the Federal Supreme Court declined to initiate proceedings on the complaint.

Since his time in the Bush Administration Addington has served as Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Operating Officer at The Heritage Foundation, and as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer at the National Federation of Independent Business.

Addington is married to Cynthia Mary Addington and they have three children

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of three series: SERIES I: Subject File, SERIES II: Chron File and SERIES III: Nicaragua File.

## **Series List**

## **SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES**

## **SERIES II: CHRON FILE**

## **SERIES III: NICARAGUA FILE**

### **Last Modified Date**

2024-02-26

## **SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES**

### **Box 1**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Appropriations (1)-(9)
OPEN	Arms Control, Vol. I (1)-(9)

### **Box 2**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Arms Control, Vol. II (1)-(5)
OPEN	Defense Vol. I (1)-(3)
OPEN	Department of Defense Authorization (1)-(4)
OPEN	Drugs (1)-(8)

### **Box 3**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Drugs (9)(10)
OPEN	Fair Housing (1)-(8)
OPEN	Federal Personnel Issues (1)(2)
OPEN	Greece/Turkey
OPEN	Grove City/Civil Rights, Vol. I (1)(2)

### **Box 4**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Grove City/Civil Rights, Vol. I (3)-(6)
OPEN	Grove City/Civil Rights, Vol. II (1)-(4)
OPEN	Independent Counsel Reauthorization (1)-(4)
OPEN	Intelligence Authorization (1)(2)
OPEN	Judiciary General (1)-(3)

**Box 5**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Judiciary General (4)-(7)
OPEN	Middle East/Persian Gulf (1)-(5)
OPEN	New Zealand (1)-(8)
OPEN	Polygraph Vol. I (1)(2)

**Box 6**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Polygraph Vol. I (3)-(4)
OPEN	Polygraph Vol. II (1)-(8)
OPEN	Presidential Transition Bill (1)-(3)
OPEN	Pro-Life (1)-(4)

**Box 7**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Pro-Life (5)-(9)
OPEN	Social Issues (1)-(5)
OPEN	Space (1)-(3)
OPEN	Superconductivity (1)-(4)
OPEN	Trade (1)(2)

**Box 8**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Trade (3)-(5)
OPEN	Veterans Legislation

**SERIES II: CHRON FILE****Box 8, cont.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Addington, D.S. Chronological File (Vol. 1) (July 1987-August 1987) (1)-(5)
OPEN	Addington, D.S. Chronological File (Vol. 3) (September 1987) (1)-(5)
OPEN	Addington, D.S. Chronological File (Vol. 3) (October 1987-November 1987) (1)-(6)
OPEN	Addington, David S. Chronological File (Vol. 4) (November 1987-December 1987) (1)-(4)

**Box 9**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Addington, David S. Chronological File (Vol. 4) (November 1987-December 1987) (5)-(8)
OPEN	Addington, David S. Chronological File (Vol. 5) (December 1987- January 1988) (1)-(6)
OPEN	Addington, David S. Chronological File (Vol. 6) (January 1988-February 1988) (1)-(6)
OPEN	Addington, David S. Chronological File (Vol. 7) (February 1988) (1)-(5)
OPEN	Chronological File (Vol. 8) (March 1988) (1)-(3)

**Box 10**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Chronological File (Vol. 8) (March 1988) (4)
OPEN	Chronological File (Vol. 9) (March 1988-May 1988) (1)-(7)
OPEN	Chronological File (Vol. 10) (June 1988-August 1988) (1)-(5)
OPEN	Chronological File (Vol. 11) (August 1988-November 1988) (1)-(5)
OPEN	Chronological File [Vol. 12 11/18/1988-12/14/1988]
OPEN	Chronological File [Vol. 13 12/13/1988-01/06/1989] (1)(2)
OPEN	Chronological File [Vol. II 01/10/1989-01/14/1989 (506-507)] (1)

**Box 11**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Chronological File [Vol. II 01/10/1989-01/14/1989 (506-507)] (2)

**SERIES III: NICARAGUA FILE****Box 11, cont.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Nicaragua Background Materials (1)-(7)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume I (1)-(5)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume II (1)-(5)

**Box 12**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
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OPEN	Nicaragua Volume II (6)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume III (1)-(5)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume IV (1)-(6)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume V (1)-(5)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume VI (1)(2)

**Box 13**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume VI (3)-(8)
OPEN	Nicaragua Volume VII (1)-(9)
OPEN	Intelligence Oversight 1988 [Vol. I] (1)(2)

**Box 14**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Intelligence Oversight 1988 [Vol. I] (3)-(6)
OPEN	[Intelligence Oversight 1988 Vol. II] (1)-(3)
OPEN	[DOD Commercial Cover (DSA) Vol. 1] (1)-(9)
OPEN	DOD Commercial Cover (DSA) Vol. 2 (1)-(3)

**Box 15**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Fry-Fascell Letter with Directory of Documents
OPEN	I. Statements to Congressional Committees
OPEN	II. Status Report of TFHA
OPEN	III. Legal Opinions
OPEN	IV. Organization of Task Force / Delegation of Authority
OPEN	V. Accountability Standards, Procedures and Controls
OPEN	VI. Assistance for Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance / TFHA Documents
OPEN	VII. Verification Commission (1)(2)
OPEN	VIII. Children's Survival Assistance (1)-(10)
OPEN	<i>The 72-Hour Document: The Sandinista Blueprint for Constructing Communism in Nicaragua - A Translation</i>
OPEN	<i>Inside the Sandinista Regime: A Special Investigator's Perspective - February 1986</i>

Status	Title
OPEN	<i>Revolution Beyond Our Borders: Sandinista Intervention in Central America</i> - September 1985
<b>Box 16</b>	
Status	Title
OPEN	<i>The Sandinistas and Middle Eastern Radicals</i>
OPEN	<i>The Sandinista Military Build-up</i>
OPEN	<i>The Nicaraguan Peace Process: A Documentary Record</i> - April 1985
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<a href="#"><u><i>The Soviet-Cuban Connection in Central America and the Caribbean</i></u></a> - March 1985
OPEN	<i>Comandante Bayardo Arce's Secret Speech before the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN)</i>
OPEN	<i>Extracts from Studies in Intelligence to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution</i> - September 1987
OPEN	<i>Report of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America</i> - January 1984 (1)(2)
OPEN	<i>The Challenge to Democracy in Central America</i>
OPEN	<i>Background Notes- Nicaragua</i> October 1986
OPEN	<i>Background Notes - Guatemala</i> September 1984
OPEN	<i>Background Notes - Honduras</i> September 1984
OPEN	<i>Background Notes - Belize</i> September 1984
OPEN	"Belize Post Report" March 1983
OPEN	"Guatemala Post Report" December 1985
OPEN	"Panama Post Report" September 1984
OPEN	"Nicaragua Post Report" October 1986
OPEN	<i>The U.S. and Central America: Implementing the National Bipartisan Commission The U.S. and Central America: Implementing the National Bipartisan Commission Report</i> August 1986 (2 copies)
OPEN	<i>Crackdown on Freedom in Nicaragua and Profiles of Internal Opposition Leaders</i> August 1986

Status	Title
OPEN	<i>Attack on the Church: Persecution of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua</i>
OPEN	<i>Central America Democracy, Peace and Development Initiative</i> (Briefing Book) February 1984
OPEN	President Reagan - <i>Central America: Defending Our Vital Interests</i> 04/27/1983
OPEN	<i>The Sandinista Military Build-Up: An Update</i> October 1987 (2 Copies)
OPEN	<i>The Sandinista Constitution</i> August 1987
OPEN	<i>A Plan for Fully Funding the Recommendations of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America</i> March 1987
OPEN	<i>Sandinista Prisons: A Tool of Intimidation</i>
OPEN	<i>Broken Promises: Sandinista Repression of Human Rights in Nicaragua</i> October 1984
OPEN	<i>Nicaragua Biographies: A Resource Book</i> January 1988
OPEN	<i>Atlas of the Caribbean Basin</i> July 1984 (2d Edition)
OPEN	<i>Background Paper: Nicaragua's Military Build-up and Support for Central American Subversion</i> 07/18/1984