

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **John W. Perotti Papers, 1979-1999** ◀

MSS-132

Size: 24 linear feet

Provenance: received from John W. Perotti

Access: open

Collection Summary: Papers consist of legal materials, correspondence (both personal and legal), notes, and photographs. These papers also include information relating to his experiences in prison as well as those of his fellow inmates.

Subjects: [Crime and Criminals](#)

Related Collections: Etheridge Knight Papers, MSS- 016, which also describes the experience of prisoners.

Processing Note: The materials in this collection were received in a state of extreme disorder and poor condition. Many of the papers were ripped, creased, and some even bare signs of scorching. The processor has attempted to impose order on the papers, but in cases where the papers were arranged by Mr. Perotti in notebooks or binders, they have been removed from the binders and kept in their original order.

Copyright: The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per *Title 17, United States Code*. The **Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections** reserves the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Completed by: Maria Halovanic, Archival Assistant, Spring 2000; last updated: July 2014

Biographical Sketch

John W. Perotti, born October 9, 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1973 he graduated from Lakewood High School and worked as a machinist, a construction worker and a labor organizer. In 1979, he was arrested and imprisoned for aggravated robbery. He has been incarcerated at Lucasville, Mansfield, and the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where he remains serving a 22 to 60 year sentence.

Mr. Perotti is a former member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). During his membership, he was an organizer for Prisoners' Organizing Project (POP), secretary for SWOGMB IWW Union branch and Internal Secretary for General Defense Committee, Local 3 IWW Union. He is also a member of the Prison Law Project of the National Lawyers Guild, American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International. He is affiliated with various labor and political groups such as the Anarchist Black Cross Groups.

While still imprisoned, Mr. Perotti received the Marion Davis Scholarship Foundation Grant, a grant which he then used to earn a degree in Paralegal Science from the Paralegal Institute. He has litigated over one hundred civil, criminal and administrative actions, and has represented himself in civil trials in the U.S. District Court of Claims. His degree as well as his extensive interaction with the legal system has led him to be known in the prison community as a jailhouse lawyer. He has won suits against correctional officers and has also assisted other inmates in their court cases against correctional officers and the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

Mr. Perotti cites penal reform as his impetus for his various litigations against the Ohio and the United States correctional institutions. His goals are to gain release from prison, to work and live productively in society, and to help bring about change.

**John W. Perotti
Papers, 1979-1999**

Scope and Content Note

The papers are comprised mainly of litigations, court motions and depositions created over the twenty years of John Perotti's incarceration at various penal institutions in Ohio, and have been arranged in six series: **S1. Correspondence, S2. Scrapbooks and Notebooks, S3. Printed Material, S4. Issues, S5. Legal, and S6. Photographs.**

The first series, **Correspondence**, consists of letters written to and from John Perotti by friends, family, lawyers and various political groups. Because some of the authors of letters were unknown, or they were identifiable by first name, nicknames or initials only, they have been placed accordingly in folders. Single letters, whose author could be identified by first and last name, were arranged alphabetically. Multiple letters written by a single author have been given their own folder. Letters between Perotti and his correspondents have been inter-filed wherever possible.

The Second Series, **Scrapbooks and Notebooks**, consists of daily planners as well as materials bound together by Perotti pertaining to law, education and the Paralegal Institute, and institutional policy procedures for various prisons. Original orders of the materials in the notebooks have been maintained.

The third series, **Printed Material**, is comprised of various publications relating to incarceration, prisoners' rights, the government, democracy and anarchy. There are also newspaper clippings concerning Perotti's various litigations. These periodicals and newspaper articles help to establish a context for Perotti's cases, correspondence and activities while incarcerated.

The fourth series, **Issues**, is divided into subjects which range from institutional rule violations, prisoners' rights, transfers, parole board hearings, mail rules and visitors. Included in the Issues Series are grievances, complaint forms and kites, which are correspondence between prisoners and prison officials.

The fifth and largest series is the **Legal** series, which is comprised of litigations and divided into four subseries: cases filed by Perotti, cases filed against Perotti, other cases relating to Perotti and Miscellaneous. The first three subseries consist of depositions, motions, legal correspondence, exhibits, and transcripts. Included in the subseries Miscellaneous are FBI files, blank legal forms and cases, notes and exhibits whose case number could not be determined.

The final series, **Photographs**, is a single folder series and contains pictures of family and friends.

Folder List

Box	Folder	Description
		S1. Correspondence
1	1	To Perotti, No name
	2	To Perotti, Initials only
	3	To Perotti, First name, nickname only
	4	To Perotti, A-K
	5	To Perotti, L-Z
	6	From Perotti, first name only
	7	From Perotti, A-K
	8	From Perotti, L-Z
	9	Bruce
	10	Gracely (Baby Girl)
	11	Mona
	12	Allyn, William H
	13	Brumfield, Paul
	14	CIA
	15	Carpenter, Barry
	16	Carro, Dean J.
	17	Clark, Sonya K.
	18	Clerk of Courts
	19	Dallman, William
	20	Dapice, John
	21	Day, Michael
	22	Hetherington, Sister Evelyn
	23	Incendiary Publications
	24	Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
	25	Johnson, Mary E, Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
	26	Kilroy, Mary Jo
	27	Klees, Pat
	28	Liesure, Linda
	29	Lynd, Staughton and Alice
	30	Martin, William
	31	Maynard, Rosina
	32	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation
	33	Perotti, Joan
	34	Poley, John D.
	35	Pope, Shirley
	36	Poulus, Paul and Rochelle

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- 37 Pierola, Albert
- 38 Reichel, Timothy
- 39 Renner, Richard
- 1 40 Sapp, Sharon
- 41 Shawnee State University
- 42 Skaggs, Roy
- 43 Slaton, D.E. (Reuben)
- 44 Spiegel, Judge Arthur
- 45 Stokes, Louis
- 46 Swofford, Eric
- 47 US. Department of Justice
- 48 Wescott, Juanita
- 49 White, Michael T.
- 50 Wilkinson, Reginald
- 51 Wolfel, Dennis
- 52 Saved envelopes

S2. Scrapbooks and Notebooks

- 53 Appointment book 1984
- 54 Appointment book 1986

- 2 1 Appointment book 1987
- 2 Appointment book 1988-89
- 3 Appointment book 1991
- 4 Legal Notebook #1 (1 of 2)
- 5 Legal Notebook #1 (2 of 2)
- 6 Legal Notebook #2 (1 of 3)
- 7 Legal Notebook #2 (2 of 3)
- 8 Legal Notebook #2 (3 of 3)
- 9 Legal Notebook # 3 (1 of 2)
- 10 Legal Notebook # 3 (2 of 2)
- 11 Legal Notebook # 4
- 12 Legal Notebook # 5

- 3 1 Legal Notebook # 6
- 2 Legal Notebook # 7
- 3 Institutional Policy and Procedure Notebook (1 of 4)
- 4 Institutional Policy and Procedure Notebook (2 of 4)
- 5 Institutional Policy and Procedure Notebook (3 of 4)
- 6 Institutional Policy and Procedure Notebook (4 of 4)
- 7 Paralegal Institute Notebook (1 of 5)

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- 8 Paralegal Institute Notebook (2 of 5)
- 9 Paralegal Institute Notebook (3 of 5)
- 10 Paralegal Institute Notebook (4 of 5)
- 11 Paralegal Institute Notebook (5 of 5)

S3. Printed Material

- 4
 - 1 *Alternative to Imprisonment*
 - 2 *Amnesty International*
 - 3 *Bayou La Rose*
 - 4 *Breaking Men's Minds*
 - 5 *Coalition for Prisoners' Rights*
 - 6 *Counter Information*
 - 7 *Discussion Bulletin*
 - 8 *Federal Litigator*
 - 9 *Fifth Estate*
 - 10 *Green Anarchist*
 - 11 *Gorilla Law*
 - 12 *Journal, National Prison Project*
 - 13 *La Lotta de Classe*
 - 14 *Love and Rage*
 - 15 *Lucis Publishing*
 - 16 *The Myth of Humane Imprisonment*
 - 17 *National Law Journal*
 - 18 *Prison Legal News*
 - 19 *Prison Ministry*
 - 20 *Poems/Literature*
 - 21 *Redbook Store*
 - 22 *Red Dragon*
 - 23 *Resistance*
 - 24 *Revolutionary Worker*
 - 25 *The Sedition Committee*
 - 26 *SOCF Newsletter*
 - 27 *Social Anarchism*
 - 28 *The State Adversary*
 - 29 *Talks and Tales Monthly*
 - 30 *The Thought*
 - 31 *Toronto Anarchist Black Cross*
 - 32 *Tribunal Reflections*
 - 33 *United Nations Publications*
 - 34 *The Writing of Bobby Sands*
 - 35 *Newspaper Clippings*

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- 36 Miscellaneous (1 of 2)
- 37 Miscellaneous (2 of 2)

S4. Issues

- 5
 - 1 AC Materials
 - 2 AC Placement
 - 3 Access to Materials
 - 4 Appeal to RIB Hearing, 1991
 - 5 Appeal to RIB Hearing, 1992
 - 6 Chandler #180-951
 - 7 Clemency Application
 - 8 Confiscation of Property
 - 9 Commissary
 - 10 Contraband
 - 11 Grievances/ Complaints (1 of 4)
 - 12 Grievances/ Complaints (2 of 4)
 - 13 Grievances/ Complaints (3 of 4)
 - 14 Grievances/ Complaints (4 of 4)
 - 15 Human Rights Violations
 - 16 Indictments and Past Convictions (1 of 2)
 - 17 Indictments and Past Convictions (2 of 2)
 - 18 IWW, Correspondence
 - 19 IWW, Dues
 - 20 IWW, SOCF Papers
 - 21 IWW, Printed Materials (1 of 2)
- 6
 - 1 IWW, Printed Materials (2 of 2)
 - 2 Kites
 - 3 Level 3
 - 4 Mail (1 of 2)
 - 5 Mail (2 of 2)
 - 6 Mansfield Rules
 - 7 Medication
 - 8 Parole Board
 - 9 Power of Attorney, Living Will
 - 10 Stolen Magazines
 - 11 Transfer
 - 12 Visitors
 - 13 Work Programs

S5. Legal

Cases Filed by Perotti

- 14 Perotti v. Baker, 4:94CV231 Volume I
- 15 Perotti v. Baker, 4:94CV231 Volume II
- 16 Perotti v. Baker, 4:94CV231, motions
- 17 Perotti v. Barry et al, 2-85-326, motions
- 18 Perotti v. Bowman, C-1-90-549 motions (1 of 3)
- 19 Perotti v. Bowman, C-1-90-549 motions (2 of 3)
- 20 Perotti v. Bowman, C-1-90-549 motions (3 of 3)
- 21 Perotti v. Brown, 89-CI-370, motions

- 7 1 Perotti v. Carty et al, 1-86-007, appeal 86-4014 (1 of 2)
- 2 Perotti v. Carty et al, 1-86-007, appeal 86-4014 (2 of 2)
- 3 Perotti v. Chauboudy, CIV-85-419
- 4 Perotti v. Collins, 95-129, motions
- 5 Perotti (Knecht et al) v. Collins et al, 96-36-82, Briefs
- 6 Perotti (Knecht) v. Collins et al, 96-36-82, Joint Appendix (1 of 2)
- 7 Perotti (Knecht) v. Collins et al, 96-36-82, Joint Appendix (2 of 2)
- 8 Perotti (Knecht) v Collins, 96-36-82, Joint Appendix Vol. II (1 of 3)
- 9 Perotti (Knecht) v Collins, 96-36-82, Joint Appendix Vol. II (2 of 3)
- 10 Perotti (Knecht) v Collins, 96-36-82. Joint Appendix Vol. II (3 of 3)
- 11 Civil Rights Complaints, Paulos et al v. Collins et al
- 12 Perotti v. Dept. of Rehab, 84-07826
- 13 Perotti v. Dept. of Rehab, 85-08681
- 14 Perotti v. Dept. of Rehab, 85-10791, 85-09130
- 15 Perotti v. Dept. of Rehab, 89-12282, 89-12283
- 16 Perotti v. Dept. of Rehab, 83-04656, 84-07834, 85-10502

- 8 1 Servizi v Dept. of Rehab, 87-03481
- 2 Perotti v. Dept of Rehab, 89-01346, 89-10892, 89-10906, 89-10914
- 3 Perotti v. Dept of Rehab, 91-02397
- 4 Perotti v. Dept of Rehab, Miscellaneous
- 5 Perotti v. Ferguson et al, 82-1672, motions and evidence
- 6 Perotti v. Ferguson et al, 82-1672, Ferguson personnel files
- 7 Perotti v. Lane, 83-CI-5-2980
- 8 Perotti v. Marshall and Mullins, 85-258
- 9 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-87-0527
- 10 Perotti v. Morris et al, C-2-85-326
- 11 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-88-0614, motions

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- 12 Perotti v. Morris et al, 88-6949
- 13 Perotti (Wolfel et al) v Morris et al, 1-89-175, motions
- 14 Perotti (Wolfel et al) v Morris, 1-89-175, appeal 91-3607/3661/4142
- 15 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-90-323, motions
- 16 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-90-323, evidence
- 17 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-90-323, notice of service
- 18 Perotti v. Morris et al, 1-90-323, correspondence
- 9 1 Perotti v. Morris et al, 90-3545
- 2 Perotti v. Morris et al, 89-FC-8133
- 3 Perotti v. Rubin, 85-8327
- 4 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. I
- 5 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. II
- 6 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. III
- 7 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. IV
- 8 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. V
- 9 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. VI
- 10 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. VII
- 11 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcript vol. VIII
- 12 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcripts, depositions
- 13 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcripts, Perotti depositions
- 14 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, trial transcripts, excerpts
- 15 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, transcripts misc.
- 16 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, motions, 1983-1986
- 17 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, motions, 1987
- 18 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, motions, 1989
- 19 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, miscellaneous motions (1 of 2)
- 10 1 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, miscellaneous motions (2 of 2)
- 2 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, evidence for Feb. 1987 trial (1 of 2)
- 3 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, evidence for Feb. 1987 trial (2 of 2)
- 4 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, grievances filed
- 5 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, correspondence
- 6 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, miscellaneous
- 7 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-584, appeal 87-3532/3533
- 8 Perotti v. Seiter et al 1-83-584, Brown Garnishment, 87-MI-005
- 9 Perotti v. Seiter 1-83-584, Civic Bank v. Brown, Perotti CIV-87-49
- 10 Perotti v. Seiter, 1-83-584, Swann Garnishment, 87J6-07-214070
- 11 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, trial transcript

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- 12 Perotti v Seiter, 1-83-1098, 2nd, 3rd motion for summary judgment
- 13 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, motions (1 of 3)
- 14 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, motions (2 of 3)
- 15 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, motions (3 of 3)
- 16 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, extracted exhibits

- 11 1 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, exhibits
- 2 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, correspondence
- 3 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, questions
- 4 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, appeal 87-3620
- 5 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-83-1098, appeal 87-3620, correspondence
- 6 Perotti v. Seiter et al, CIV-83-127
- 7 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-84-1285
- 8 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-84-1286
- 9 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 1-84-1286, appeal 88-8352
- 10 Perotti v. Seiter, Marshal et al, 1-85-1180 (1 of 2)
- 11 Perotti v. Seiter, Marshal et al, 1-85-1180 (2 of 2)
- 12 Perotti v. Seiter, Marshal et al, 1-85-1180, appeal 88-3159
- 13 Perotti v. Seiter, Marshal et al, 1-85-1180, appeal 88-3159/3412
- 14 Perotti v. Seiter et al, C-1-86-559, motions
- 15 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 83-3542
- 16 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 86-3592
- 17 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 87-3380/3154
- 18 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 87-3533
- 19 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 87-4089
- 20 Perotti v. Seiter et al, 88-3308, 87-7382
- 21 Perotti (Wolfel et al) v. Seiter, 1-89-688, evidence for retaliation

- 12 1 Perotti v. Shaner et al, 87-4024, motions
- 2 Perotti v. Shaner et al, 1-85-1877
- 3 Perotti v. Shaner et al, 1-85-1877, Perotti deposition
- 4 Perotti v. St. Anthony's Hospital et al, 85-CV08-4443, motions
- 5 Perotti v. St. Anthony's Hospital et al, 85-CV08-4443, records
- 6 Perotti v State Employment Relations Boards 88-CI-001 (1 of 2)
- 7 Perotti v. State Employment Relations Boards 88-CI-001 (2 of 2)
- 8 Perotti v. Taylor et al, 2-83-856, motions 1986-1989
- 9 Perotti v. Taylor et al, 2-83-856, evidence and exhibits
- 10 Perotti v. Taylor et al, 2-83-856, motions, miscellaneous
- 11 Perotti v. Taylor et al, 2-83-856, depositions
- 12 Perotti v. US Dept of Justice, 1-89-844, motions

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- 13 1 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491 (1 of 5)
 2 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491 (2 of 5)
 3 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491 (3 of 5)
 4 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491 (4 of 5)
 5 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491 (5 of 5)
 6 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491, exhibits (1 of 3)
 7 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491, exhibits (2 of 3)
 8 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 5:92-CV-0491, exhibits (3 of 3)
 9 Perotti et al v. Wilkinson et al, 93-3630/3669
 10 Perotti v. Wilkinson, APA, 97-AP-203, motions
 11 Perotti v. Wilkinson, APA, 97-AP-203, intoxication defense
 12 Perotti v Wilkinson, APA, 97-AP-203, Retroactivity, AC Grounds
 13 Perotti v. Wilkinson, APA, 97-AP-203, Legislative Files
 14 Perotti v Wilkinson, APA 97-AP-203, Post-convict. Retroactivity
 15 Perotti v. Wilkinson, APA, 97-AP-2-3, related cases
 16 Perotti et al v. Wilson et al

Cases Filed Against Perotti

- 14 1 Brooklyn, OH, v. Perotti, 82-CRA-211
 2 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, transcript (1 of 2)
 3 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, transcript (2 of 2)
 4 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, transcript, misc.
 5 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, transcript of proceedings, voir dire
 6 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, Reference notes
 7 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, motions (1 of 2)
 8 Ohio v. Perotti, 88-CR-262, motions (2 of 2)
 9 Ohio v. Perotti, CA 1564
 10 Ohio v. Perotti, CA1586
 11 Ohio v. Perotti, CR-85-317
 12 Ohio v. Perotti, 94-1595

Others Cases Relating to Perotti

- 13 Benjamin v. Jacobson et al, 75-CIV-3073
 14 Dapice et al v Seiter et al, 1-86-1245
 15 Farmer v. Marshall, 1-84-1938
 16 Hampton v. Hobbs, 96-3524
 17 Hill v. Neal et al, 82-3817
 18 Knecht v. Voinovich, 1-92-189
 19 Kuala v. National Labor Relations Board, 86-4154
 20 Lagway v. Michael, (1 of 2)
 21 Lagway v. Michael, (2 of 2)
- 15 1 Ledger v. Dept of Rehab, 91-05540/89-12330

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- 2 Ledger v. Horn et al, 1-89-163 (1 of 2)
- 3 Ledger v. Horn et al, 1-89-163 (2 of 2)
- 4 Ledger v. Horn et al, 91-3331
- 5 Ledger v. Turkson et al, 1-89-153
- 6 Martin v. Morris
- 7 Miller v. Reno 94-0277
- 8 Milner v. Wilson
- 9 Ortiz v. Fairman et al, 88-CV-7509
- 10 Price v. Craft et al, 1-85-1714
- 11 Robinson v. Horn, 1-84-246
- 12 Scott v. Smith, 2-90-740, correspondence
- 13 Scott v. Smith, 2-90-740, depositions
- 14 Scott v. Smith, 2-90-740, case file (1 of 2)
- 15 Scott v. Smith, 2-90-740, case file (2 of 2)
- 16 Scott v. Smith, 2-90-740, incident reports
- 17 Swofford v. Carter et al, 1-88-225
- 18 Wilkinson et al. v. Maurer et al, 91-CVH-01-763
- 19 Wilson v. Seiter, 2-86-1046
- 20 Wolfel v. FBI, 1-81-373
- 21 Wolfel v. Holbrook, 1-82-463 (1 of 2)
- 22 Wolfel v. Holbrook, 1-82-463 (2 of 2)
- 23 Wolfel v. Marshall et al, 1-85-1155

Legal, Miscellaneous

- 16 1 Miscellaneous cases (1 of 2)
- 2 Miscellaneous cases (2 of 2)
- 3 Miscellaneous case notes (1 of 2)
- 4 Miscellaneous case notes (2 of 2)
- 5 Medical Records, exhibits
- 6 FBI files
- 7 Blank Legal Forms

S6. Photographs

- 8 photographs