



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**Charities Division**

**An Inventory of Its Litigation Files Concerning the Blandin  
Trust**

**OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS**

- Agency:** Minnesota. Attorney General. Charities Division.
- Series Title:** Litigation files concerning the Blandin Trust,
- Dates:** 1958-1982 (bulk 1970-1979).
- Abstract:** This case concerns objections to attorneys' fees charged to the charitable trust of Charles K. Blandin in the sale of the Blandin Paper Company.
- Quantity:** 1.5 cu. ft. (1 box and 1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

**HISTORY OF THE CASE**

This case arose from objections of the Attorney General to fees sought by the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis and the law firm of Oppenheimer, Wolff, and Donnelly from the charitable trust of the late Charles K. Blandin, founder of the Blandin Paper Company of Grand Rapids.

Attorneys of the law firm and officials of the bank were the trustees of the Charles K. Blandin Residuary Trust, which under the provisions of Blandin's will became operators of the Blandin Paper Company. During the 1970s, the trustees were forced to look for a buyer for the paper company due to changes in federal laws governing the operations of private foundations. The trustees received an initial offer of 32.5 million dollars, which at the time seemed impressive. However, they sought further advice from the investment firms of Salomon Brothers and Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood, and were later able to sell the company for 79 million dollars to British Columbia Forest Products Ltd. of Vancouver, B.C.

A Ramsey County court judge ruled that the trustees had overpaid Salomon Brothers by \$50,000 and Piper Jaffray by \$25,000 and that they would either have to recover the amounts or reimburse the trust. The fee requested by the Oppenheimer law firm was reduced by \$25,000, while Northwestern National Bank was determined to be entitled to the full \$275,000 it had charged.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

While this case may not be particularly noteworthy, testimony and other documentation provided sheds some light on the operations of the Blandin Paper Company, its sale in 1977, and the workings of the Blandin Foundation.

The files include correspondence, depositions and exhibits, attorney and research notes, financial records, and other materials related to and documenting the case.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

The files are organized into several sections corresponding to various stages in the proceedings.

## INDEX TERMS

*This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### **Topics:**

Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations—Minnesota.  
Litigating.  
Papermaking—Minnesota—Grand Rapids.  
Trusts and trustees—Fees—Minnesota.

### **Organizations:**

Blandin Paper Company.  
Charles K. Blandin Foundation.  
Charles K. Blandin Residuary Trust.  
Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis.  
Oppenheimer, Wolff and Donnelly.  
Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood.  
Salomon Brothers.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### **Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited item, folder title, and sub-unit here].* Minnesota Attorney General.  
Charities Division. Litigation files concerning the Blandin Trust. Minnesota Historical  
Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### **Accession Information:**

Accession number(s): 999-23

### **Processing Information:**

Processed by: Richard Arpi, August 1998.  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
101.I.11.10F	[1]	General Subject Files, 1970-1979. 15 folders. Anti-Trust, 1977. Attorney Fee Analysis, 1976-1977. Blandin Foundation, 1972-1977. Blandin Paper Company financial statements, 1973-1977. Consumer Law Summaries, 1978. Deposition of Conrad Fredin, May 29, 1979 (with exhibits). 2 folders. First Trust Company, Doherty, Rumble & Butler fees, 1973-1978. Glatfelter (P.H.) Company, 1976-1977. Hoel, Dick interview, May 8, 1979. Meyer interview notes, [undated]. Paper Market Conditions, 1970-1977. Trial exhibits, 1970-1978. 2 folders. Trustee Survey, 1979.  Charles K. Blandin Residuary Trust, 1969-1982. 9 folders. Miscellaneous file, 1976-1979. Attorney notes, 1976-1979. 2 folders.
101.I.12.1B	2	Correspondence, November 1977 - August 1979, June 1981 - January 1982. 2 folders.. Factual research, 1970-1977 Office memos, 1977-1978. Purchase agreement, 1977. Statement of assets, 1969, 1974-1978.  Faegre and Benson, 1972-1978. 2 folders. Duplicative research, 1972-1977. Proposed Special Fee of Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, January 1978.  Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, 1967-1979. 9 folders. Calculation of fees, 1975-1978. Correspondence, 1971-1978. Deposition of Henry Doerr, Vice-President of Trust Department and Blandin Trustee, May 11, 1979. Deposition of James Harris, Vice-chairman of Trust Department, May 11, 1979. 2 folders. Fees, generally received from Northwestern, 1967-1977. Information re: \$120,000 special fee, (received from Northwestern), 1976. Prior work, 1975-1976.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
101.I.12.1B	2 (cont.)	Sale of Blandin Paper Company and associated negotiations, 1970-1977. Oppenheimer, James, 1971-1979. 5 folders. Chronological summary of activities and services of James Oppenheimer, trustee, 1978. Deposition and exhibits, 1976-1979. Exhibits to petition, 1977-1978. Memos, 1971-1977. Production of Documents, 1976-1977. Oppenheimer Law Firm, 1958-1978. 10 folders. Attorney's notes, 1977-1978. Correspondence re: Closing, 1977. Correspondence re: Trustees, managers, directors, 1971-1977. Legal research, 1958-1978. Miscellaneous work, 1977. Oppenheimer fees correspondence, 1977-1978. Prior fees, 1977. Prior work, 1970-1972. Tax Research: Blandin Paper Company, 1976-1977. Tax Research: Wood Product Company, 1976-1977. Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood, 1975-1977. 3 folders. General file, 1976-1977. Fees and duties, 1977. Prior work and fees, 1975. Salomon Brothers, 1976-1979. 4 folders. James Crumley correspondence, 1976-1977. James Crumley deposition, May 15, 1979. Fees, duties, 1976-1978. Wood products, 1977. Trustees of the Blandin Foundation, 1971-1977. 6 folders. Correspondence re: Bids, 1976-1977. Duties, 1976-1977. Glatfelter and 5 m. increase, 1977. Private foundation status, 1971-1975. Valuations, 1971-1977. Wood products negotiations, 1977.