

Powell, Lewis

JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 9/16/79
Improper withholdings in historical case and under 5/5/79 policy standards
ABA as counsel for Oswald before the Commission
Withholding what is reasonably segregable
The president-elect of the American Bar Association of 1964 is a Supreme Court
Justice today. There therefore is much more public interest in what is withheld from
attached 62-109090-117.

With Oswald dead and represented by prestigious if overly-busy counsel and given
what has since come to be known about the Commission's proceedings, there is also
considerable public interest.

There is also the specifics of Powell's representation of Oswald's interest
in what was a secret proceeding until the transcript was published. I have written
about this and will provide that information if it interests you. I believe there is
considerable public interest in making the withheld information available because,
in summary, Powell was less than diligent in safeguarding any rights Oswald had, in
not questioning dubious evidence and in the length to which he went in the opposite
direction, whatever his motive in so doing. His representation was not in the American
adversarial tradition.

The relationship of these ABA exposures with the FBI is also a matter of public
interest, given the role of each in the assassination investigation.

As the record, of the part not eliminated in xeroxing and by obliteration reflects,
The ABA president accepted the improper classification of what was not subject to
classification and was later published. (The Commission had no classification authority.)

There also is the question was anything reasonably segregable in the large with-
held areas. I am certain there is such information and this appeal is intended to
include that.

ABA