

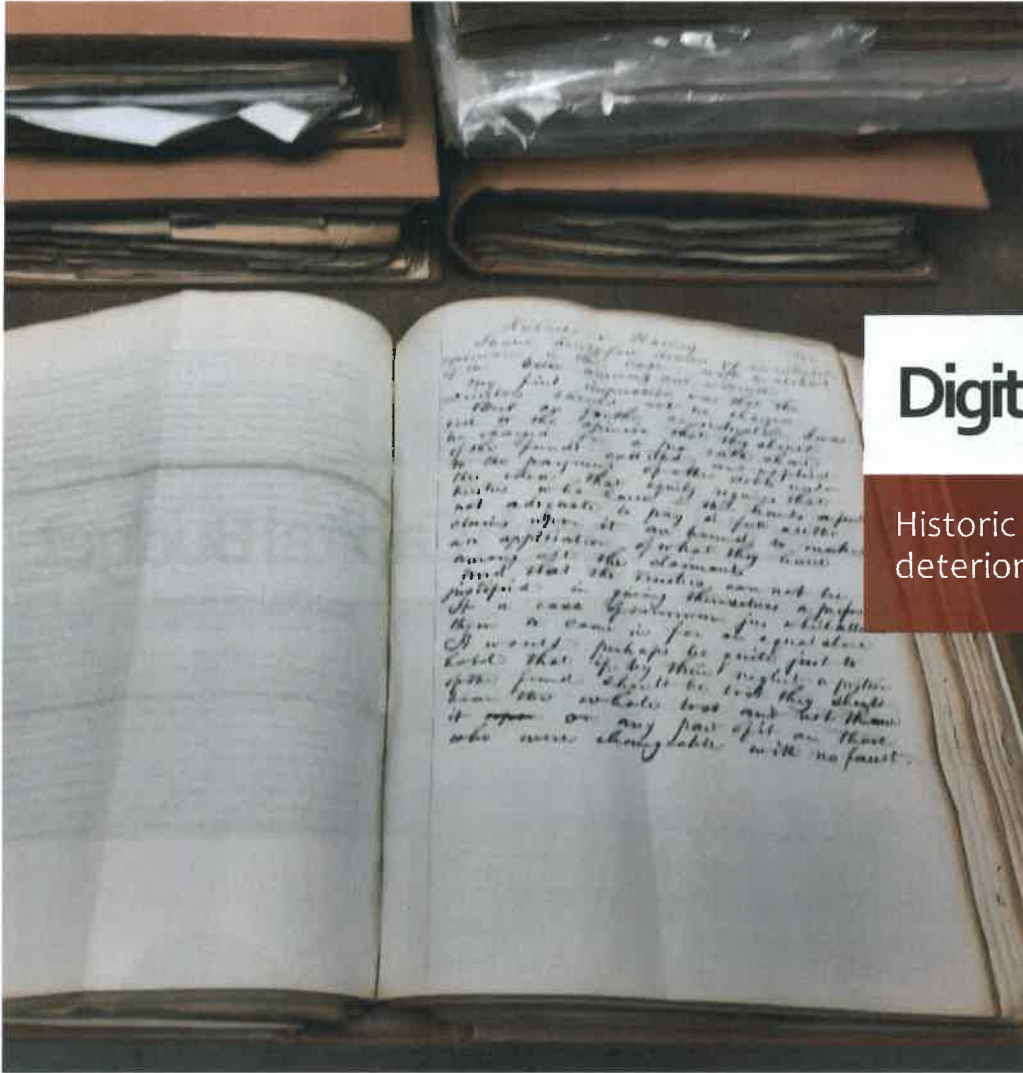
# NH Judicial Branch Capital Budget

FY 24/25 Biennial Appropriation Request

Digitization Project

June 21, 2022





## Digitization of Historic Court Records

Historic and important documents are at risk of serious deterioration unless the courts act soon.

Currently located in the Supreme Court basement, but seriously at risk, is a collection of 633 volumes of handwritten and printed documents dating back to 1849.

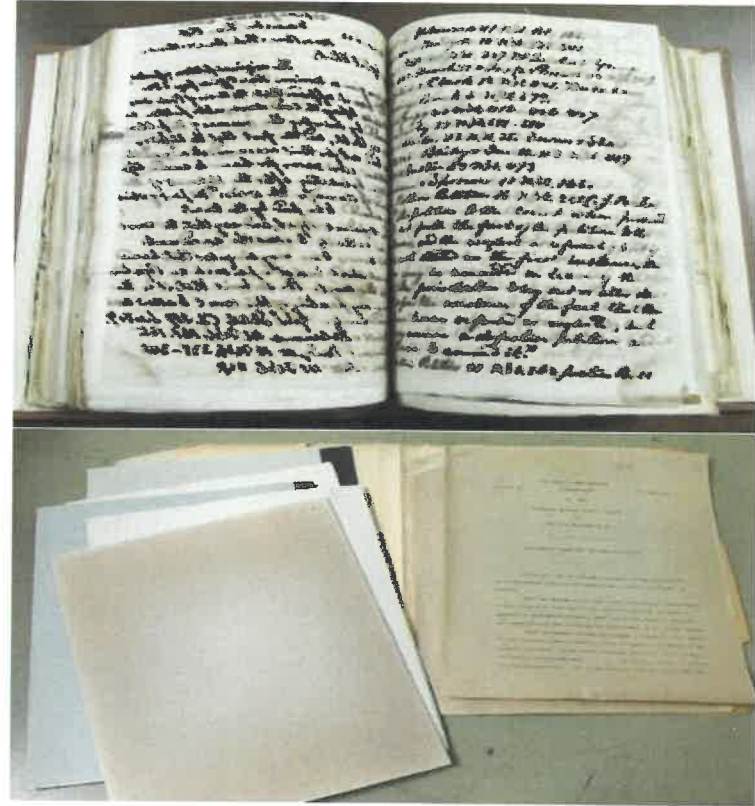
# Project Overview

Stored within New Hampshire Law library are 633 volumes of bound Supreme Court briefs and case files ranging in date from 1849 through 1977. These volumes include printed and handwritten documents and cases that never resulted in a published opinion, making them a treasure trove of undiscovered New Hampshire history.

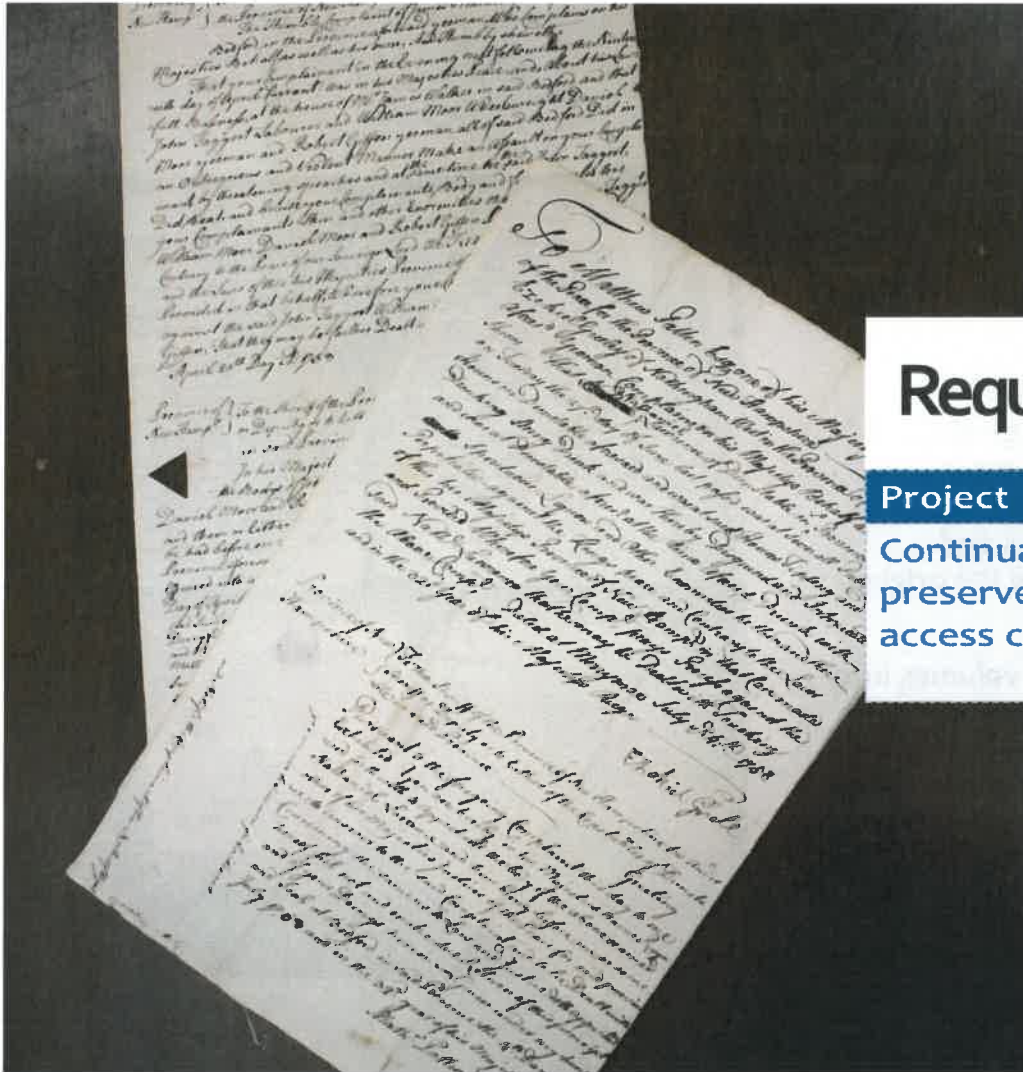
The goal of this project is to preserve these original Supreme Court records, digitize them to provide electronic access, and safely house the original documents. In March and April of 2018, staff of the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, MA conducted a page-by-page assessment of the volumes to determine the condition of the books and recommend the steps required to digitize the content and preserve the original documents.

The NEDCC assessors examined each book and divided the bound volumes into three groups to help guide the decision-making process for treatment of the collection. Group 1 (1849-1890s) are the oldest and most at-risk volumes and require the most aggressive treatment Group 2 (1890s-1930s) and Group 3 (1940s -1970s) are in better condition and consequently will require less conservation and will be easier to digitize. Samples of the issues the assessors found are in the photographs below.

Thanks to \$50,000 in funding from the legislature, preservation and digitization on the first 7 volumes - the oldest in the collection - began in January 2022. The estimated cost for the work on all 633 volumes is \$2,101,060.







## Requested Capital Funds

Project	Funds
Continuation of project started in 2021 to preserve and digitize original records so that access can be provided electronically.	\$500,000