

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 6.11

Office of State Auditor

James F. Antonio

Correspondence, 1979-1984

Abstract: Correspondence of former state auditor James Antonio, 1979-1984.

Extent: 0.8 cubic ft. (2 Hollinger boxes).

Record Description: Paper.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

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Historical and Biographical Notes

James F. Antonio was born on June 30, 1939 to Domenic and Lillian Antonio. He grew up in Canton, Ohio, and graduated from high school in 1957. He went on to earn three accounting degrees: a Bachelors from Miami University of Ohio in 1961, a Masters from University of Illinois in 1963, and a Doctorate from University of Illinois in 1967. While

working on his education, he married Libby Tanner in July, 1963. They had two sons, James, Jr. and Joseph.

Antonio's pre-government career included working at several certified public accounting firms starting in 1961 and in higher education teaching accounting. In September, 1966, he joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also served on the faculty at the University of South Florida-Tampa. He became a certified public accountant in 1970.

Antonio's government career began in 1974 when he joined the staff of State Auditor John Ashcroft. After George W. Lehr was elected in 1974, Antonio was appointed Deputy State Auditor. After Lehr resigned in 1977 to care for a terminally ill son, newly appointed State Auditor Thomas M. Keyes kept Antonio on as Deputy State Auditor despite the fact they were from different political parties. Antonio was elected State Auditor in 1978 and reelected in 1982. In mid-1984, he resigned to become the first chairman of the newly-created Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Over his entire career, Antonio participated in numerous professional organizations, including the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Government Accountants, and Municipal Finance Officers Association. He also served as the secretary of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; as an executive committee member of the National State Auditors Association; as vice chairman of the Mid-American Intergovernmental Audit Forum; and as one of two state auditors on the joint state-federal steering committee which implemented the single audit concept. Antonio was inducted into the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers Hall of Fame in 2018.

Antonio's ability to work across party lines, including serving as Deputy State Auditor under both a Republican and a Democrat State Auditor, and his deep involvement with auditing and governmental organizations is a testament to his professionalism, which is illustrated in every letter of this collection and earned him numerous local, state, and national awards and appointments over the course of his career.

Timeline

Year	Event
1939	Antonio was born on June 30.
1957	Antonio graduated from high school in Canton, Ohio.
1961	Antonio graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He started working in private sector accounting jobs while continuing his education.
1963	Antonio graduated from the University of Illinois with a Masters in Accounting. He married Libby Tanner in July.
1966	Antonio joined the staff of University of Missouri-Columbia to teach accounting.

Year	Event
1967	Antonio graduated from the University of Illinois with a Ph.D. in Accounting.
1970	Antonio became a certified public accountant.
1974	Antonio joined the Office of State Auditor at the invitation of State Auditor John Ashcroft.
1975	Antonio was appointed Deputy State Auditor by State Auditor George W. Lehr.
1977	Antonio was reappointed Deputy State Auditor by State Auditor Thomas M. Keyes.
1978	Antonio was elected State Auditor.
1982	Antonio was reelected State Auditor.
1984	Mid-year, Antonio resigned to become the first chairman of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
2018	Antonio was inducted into the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers Hall of Fame.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

“Business People; Missouri's Auditor Heads New Board.” *New York Times*. Accessed July 1, 2026. <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/05/16/business/business-people-missouri-s-auditor-heads-new-board.html>.

“James Antonio.” *National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers*. Accessed July 1, 2026. https://www.nasact.org/james_antonio.

Menezes, Bill. “Missouri Gets First Woman Auditor.” *Daily American Republic* [Poplar Bluff, MO], 17 Jul. 1984, p. 2. Accessed July 21, 2026: <https://shsmo.newspapers.com/image/938586478/>.

Official Manual of the State of Missouri. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. Volumes 1878 through 1999-2000. Accessed March 13, 2026. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook>.

Related Material

RG 6.01 [Audit Reports](#)

RG 6.02 Office of State Auditor

Correspondence, 1979-1984

Extent: .8 cubic ft. (2 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains the correspondence of James Antonio. It includes policy-making decisions, correspondence with those being audited, discussions with the attorney general, and audit petitions from citizens. Only one copy of form letters announcing changes, attorney general opinions, or legislative issues was kept. Correspondence is in reverse chronological order within folders to keep as originally filed.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date
1	1	1979, January-April
1	2	1979, May-August
1	3	1979, September-December
1	4	1980, January-March
1	5	1980, April-June
1	6	1980, July-December
1	7	1981, January-June
1	8	1981, July-December
2	1	1982, January-June
2	2	1982, July-December
2	3	1983, January-April
2	4	1983, May-August
2	5	1983, September-December
2	6	1984, January-June