



Ferrara, Peter J.: Files, 1983

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of Policy Development

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Peter Joseph Ferrara (born April 26, 1955) is a lawyer, policy analyst and columnist and former government official.

Ferrara grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and graduated in 1976 from Harvard College with an A.B. in economics *magna cum laude*. Ferrara entered Harvard as a sophomore due to advanced placement results and graduated within three years. He continued onto Harvard Law School graduating in 1979 *cum laude*. At Harvard, Ferrara wrote at the student newspaper *The Harvard Crimson*. While in law school, he also participated in the Harvard Libertarian Association.

Leaving law school, worked from 1978-1981 at the New York law firm headquarters of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. He began his government career in the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, 1981-1982. Ferrara was responsible for coordinating development of the Reagan Administration's Enterprise Zones initiative.

From 1982 to 1983, Ferrara served in the Reagan White House Office of Policy Development. There he was most involved with the movements to reform Social Security, continued involvement with the Enterprise Zone initiatives and urban policy.

Leaving public service, Ferrara became a Heritage Foundation analyst specializing in Social Security issues. He also became an insurance consultant and provided expertise in Social Security to media. In 1987, Ferrara joined the faculty of the George Mason University School of Law and directed its legal writing programs until 1991.

Ferrara served as an associate deputy attorney general from 1991 to 1993 in the George H.W. Bush Administration.

In the early 2000s, Ferrara founded the Virginia chapter of Club for Growth and directed the International Center for Law and Economics.

Ferrara was a senior policy adviser at the Institute for Policy Innovation. In April 2011, Ferrara became senior fellow for entitlement and budget policy at The

Heartland Institute where he continues to this day. He served concurrently as general counsel for the American Civil Rights Union and policy director of the Carleson Center for Welfare Reform. He was a member of the District of Columbia Bar but is now on inactive status. He is now also a senior fellow at the Independent Institute and the Social Security Institute.

Ferrara continues to write and speak on conservative policy stances, free-market solutions and less government regulations. Ferrara's affinity for conservative ideas and policies began at an early age. In a 2005 profile for the *Harvard Law Bulletin* Ferrara reported recalling at age nine "being transfixed while watching television as Barry Goldwater stormed the 1964 Republican National Convention." He began writing and publishing early on in his career on conservative approaches to policy issues. Ferrara's senior law school thesis evolved into the debut hardcover publication by the libertarian Cato Institute in 1980, *Social Security: The Inherent Contradiction*. Ferrara is known for promoting the privatization of the social security program.

Ferrara's articles have been published in such outlets as the *New York Times*, *National Review*, *The Washington Times*, *The American Spectator* and FoxNews.com. He is a regular guest on the Thom Hartmann radio program.

Ferrara's writing has caused him some controversy, particularly for his paid writing for clients, most notably convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. His essay, "What is an American?" published in the *National Review* after the September 11 attack was reproduced in a chain email claiming that an Australian dentist wrote it. And lastly, Ferrara is a fierce defender of the fossil fuel industry and has written and spoken about his disbelief in man-made climate change.

A list of some of Ferrara's publications includes:

- *America's Ticking Bankruptcy Bomb* (2011)
- *Stop the Raid: Social Security the Biggest Rip Off in History* (with Denison Smith) (2008)
- *Common Cents, Common Dreams: A Layman's Guide to Social Security Privatization*, (1999)
- *The Choctaw Revolution: Lessons for Federal Indian Policy*, (1998)
- *Religion and the Constitution: A Reinterpretation* (1983)
- *Social Security: The Inherent Contradiction* (1980)

Scope and Content Note

Scope and Content Note

Peter J. Ferrara joined the White House Office of Policy Development staff as a senior staff member and Assistant Director for Federalism & Health and Human Resources in May 1982. He left the White House to return to the private sector in April 1983.

The Peter J. Ferrara collection consists of material on several broad policy issues (Enterprise Zones, Social Security and urban policy) with a small amount of other material on other subjects, notably federalism, housing and speeches. Ferrara created a color-coded filing system at the White House which included several groupings of subjects. He also had a color-coded division for a set of material called Administrative files. Using this personal arrangement we organized this small collection into two series.

The series arrangement is: SERIES I: Subject File, and SERIES II: Administration Material.

Series List

SERIES I: Subject File

SERIES II: Administration Material

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

SERIES I: Subject File

OA 9035

Status	Title
CLOSED	Budget
CLOSED	Civil Service Retirement Fund/ Reform
CLOSED	Economic Program: Regional Impacts
CLOSED	Economy: Articles (General)
CLOSED	Employment
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Amendments

Status	Title
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Compromise Proposals / Changes
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Conference Board
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Disadvantaged Workers (1)(2)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Environment
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Expensing (1)(2)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Fact Sheet (1983)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Finance Committee Documents
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Initiatives (1983)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: The Kennedy Connection
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Enterprise Zone Message to Congress 03/23/1982
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Administration's Enterprise Zone Proposal 03/23/1982
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Enterprise Zone Article 09/15/1982
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Pierce Testimony on Enterprise Zone Tax Act of 1982 04/12/1982
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Q&A's Re Enterprise Zone 03/23/1982
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Enterprise Zone Speech Notes 01/19/1982 [Empty]
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Key Documents Enterprise Zone Legislation (1)(2)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Legislation

OA 9036

Status	Title
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Legislative Language (1)-(3)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Memos (1982) (1)(2)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Memos (1983)
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Message to Congress / Presidential
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Miscellaneous
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Rangel Bill (1)-(4)

Status	Title
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: State and Local Governments
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Statements by the President
OPEN	Enterprise Zones: Don Warren
CLOSED	Ethics
CLOSED	Federalism
CLOSED	Federalism: Executive Order
CLOSED	Federalism, New: Durenberger Views
CLOSED	Federalism: OMB Regulations
CLOSED	Food Stamps
OPEN	Gingrich Talk
CLOSED	Gold
CLOSED	HHS: Tony Pellechio
OPEN	Heritage Foundation: Luncheons
CLOSED	Housing - Housing Block Grant Report
CLOSED	Housing - Housing Block Grant Report No. 2
CLOSED	In-Kind Benefits
CLOSED	Mid-Year Report
CLOSED	National Defense
CLOSED	Robert Nozick

OA 9037

Status	Title
CLOSED	OPI (Office of Policy Information) Issue Update Papers
CLOSED	Presidential Issue Luncheon Papers (Ferrera)
CLOSED	Private Sector Initiatives, (Report of) Verity Commission on
OPEN	Public Housing: Privatization
CLOSED	Resumes (General)
OPEN	Social Security - Bob Beck
OPEN	Social Security: Commission Compromise Package
OPEN	Social Security: Commission Proposals
OPEN	Social Security: Coverage of State and Locals [Publications from OPPOSE]
OPEN	Social Security: Earnings Sharing

Status	Title
OPEN	Social Security: General Public Comments
OPEN	Social Security: Harper Letters
OPEN	Social Security: Initiatives 1983
OPEN	Social Security: Investment of Trust Funds
OPEN	Social Security: Jim Lynn (Paper on SS)
OPEN	Social Security: Matrix
OPEN	Social Security: Memos 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Social Security: Memos (1983) (1)(2)
OPEN	Social Security: Perez Article
OPEN	Social Security: Peterson Publicity Project (1)(2)
OPEN	Social Security: Reform Memos (1)-(4)
OPEN	Social Security: Stevens Bill (1)(2)
OPEN	Social Security: Studies (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Social Security Studies: Gload, Richard A.]

OA 9038

Status	Title
OPEN	Social Security: Taxation of Fringe Benefits
OPEN	Social Security: Universal Coverage
OPEN	Social Security: <i>Washington Times</i>
OPEN	Social Security: Withdrawals From (1)(2)
CLOSED	Speaking Engagements (Ferrara): Memos Requesting Speech: Enterprise Zone 01/19/1982-01/21/1982: Granville
CLOSED	Corporation Conference on Responding to Changing Fiscal Realities: Washington, DC
CLOSED	Speeches (Ferrara): Reaganomics
CLOSED	Speeches (Ferrara): Upcoming and Delivered, Reaganomics
CLOSED	State of the Union Message (for January 1983)
CLOSED	State of the Union Message - 1983, Implementation of Initiatives
CLOSED	Tuition Tax Credit - Memos, Etc.
OPEN	Urban Policy (Yellow Label): Butler and Woodson (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Charlotte Street

Status	Title
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Cicero, Illinois
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Issue Papers (Presidential Luncheon)
CLOSED	Urban Policy: <i>Journal of Community Studies</i> Article
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Memos
OPEN	Urban Policy: Municipal Development Finance Corporation
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Neighborhoods Bill
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Neighborhood Community Action
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Northeast / Midwest Institute Porter Letter
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Steve Rhodes
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Sabre Foundation
CLOSED	Urban Policy: Steve Savas
CLOSED	Urban Policy: State and Local Governments
CLOSED	Urban Policy Report
OPEN	Vouchers
CLOSED	Welfare: Work Efforts
CLOSED	Women's Legal Equity
OPEN	Working Groups: Enterprise Zones
CLOSED	Working Groups: Urban Policy (CCHR)(Cabinet Council on Human Resources)

SERIES II: Administration Material

OA 9039

Status	Title
CLOSED	Admin: Harper Action Items, 1982 (Peter Ferrara)
CLOSED	Admin: Harper Action Items (1983)
CLOSED	Porter Action Items - 1982 (Ferrara)
CLOSED	Admin: Fairness of Administration Policies
OPEN	Chron - Ferrara - July 1982-August 1982
CLOSED	Chron - Ferrara - September 1982-October 1982
CLOSED	Chron - Ferrara - November 1982-December 1982
CLOSED	Admin: Ferrara: Chron - January 1983-February 1983
CLOSED	Admin: Chron - Ferrara - March 1983-April 1983
CLOSED	Correspondence (Ferrara) - July 1982-December 1982