The Office of Price Administration (OPA), a federal agency tasked with establishing price controls and rationing essential consumer goods, was given official status under the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 (EPCA). During a period when wartime inflation was imminent, the Price Administrator was required to make adjustments for fluctuations in the cost of production, distribution and transportation and establish prices that “in his judgement” were “generally fair and equitable.”

To prevent sellers and landlords from seeking injunctions against price orders, EPCA directed all determinations of legality to a special tribunal, the Emergency Court of Appeals. For plaintiffs, who could not challenge the regulations’ constitutionality in state or federal courts, the Emergency Court of Appeals was their only recourse.

Price Control in the Courts: The U.S. Emergency Court of Appeals, 1941-1961 supports the study of history, law, economics, government and business by chronicling the creation and activities of this temporary court. Scholars can use these valuable primary sources to draw their own conclusions about the efficacy and function of this court and its impact on legal, business and government policy.
Price Control in the Courts: The U.S. Emergency Court of Appeals, 1941-1961

The 667 dockets comprising this collection include petitions, appeal applications, briefs and supporting documents, such as price schedules, correspondence and contracts.

The complainants in these cases include small businesses and large corporations in such industries as rental property and real estate, oil and petroleum refining, building materials, general merchandise retail, meatpacking, tobacco companies and automobile dealerships. Cases involving city governments include coverage of Dallas, Oklahoma City, and Norfolk and the ports of Seattle and Tacoma.

Sample cases include:

- Houston Oil Company of Texas v. Leon Henderson
  Docket #1
- Galban Lobo Company, S.A. v. Leon Henderson
  Docket #2
- The Lincoln Savings Bank of Brooklyn v. Leon Henderson
  Docket #12
- U.S. Gypsum Co. v. Prentiss M. Brown
  Docket #21
- National Electrical Contractors Association v. Prentiss M. Brown
  Docket #22
- West Seattle Land and Improvement Co. v. Prentiss M. Brown
  Docket #34
- Northwood Apartments, Inc. v. Prentiss M. Brown
  Docket #41
- United Union Breweries Company, Inc. v. Prentiss M. Brown
  Docket #71
- Armour & Co. v. Chester Bowles
  Docket #101
- California Lima Bean Growers Assoc. v. Chester Bowles
  Docket #139
- Seaboard Oil Company v. Chester Bowles
  Dockets #195-#197
- Sears, Roebuck & Co v. Paul A. Porter
  Docket #313
- Kraft Foods Company v. Paul A. Porter
  Docket #342
- Park-Laurel Realty Corp. v. Frank R. Ceedon
  Docket #432
- Duncan Coffee Co. v. Reconstruction Finance Corporation
  Docket #497
- Evergreen Meat Company v. Reconstruction Finance Corporation
  Docket #537