Hillary Rodham Clinton grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois and attended Wellesley College. Graduating with honors, Senator Clinton became the college’s first student commencement speaker. Her speech, which focused on the country’s turmoil because of an unpopular war, political assassinations and riots in the cities, drew a standing ovation and prompted an article in Life magazine.

In 1969, Senator Clinton entered Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of Yale Law Review and Social Action, interned with children’s advocate Marian Wright Edelman, and met Bill Clinton. After graduation, Senator Clinton advised the Children’s Defense Fund in Cambridge and joined the impeachment inquiry staff advising the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. She was one of three women on a 43-lawyer staff. She then “followed her heart to Arkansas,” where her husband began his political career.

After marrying in 1975, the Clintons joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas Law School. There, Senator Clinton taught criminal law, ran a legal services clinic, and did prison projects and advocacy work. She joined the Rose Law Firm as one of its first women associates in 1976. In 1978, she worked on civil rights cases as the director of the legal services clinic, and did prison projects and advocacy work. She then “followed her heart to Arkansas,” where her husband began his political career.

Senator Clinton served as Arkansas’ first working First Lady for 12 years, balancing family, law and public service. In 1979, President Carter appointed her to the board of the Legal Services Corporation and Bill Clinton became governor of Arkansas. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

Senator Clinton married in 1996. Clinton Clinton taught criminal law, ran a legal services clinic, and did prison projects and advocacy work. She joined the Rose Law Firm as one of its first women associates in 1976. In 1978, President Carter appointed her to the board of the Legal Services Corporation and Bill Clinton became governor of Arkansas. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

As the nation’s First Lady, Senator Clinton continued to balance public service with private life. Her active role began in 1993 when the President asked her to chair the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. She continued to be a leading advocate for expanding health insurance coverage, ensuring children are properly immunized, and raising public awareness on health issues.

In 1995, Senator Clinton was named Honorary Chairperson of the American delegation to the United Nations international conference on women in Beijing, China. During her extensive travels around the globe, Senator Clinton often met with women who ran clinics and small businesses delivering her message that without schooling, decent healthcare and the opportunity to vote, women won’t have the chance to build a better future. She became the first First Lady to address the United Nations in 1995, and she won a Grammy Award for recording it.

On November 7, 2000, she was elected United States Senator from New York. Senator Clinton is the first First Lady elected to the United States Senate and the first woman elected statewide in New York.

The Senator has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Claude Pepper Award of the National Association for Home Care; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award of the Progressive National Baptist Convention; the Medal; and the Albert Shanker Award of the New York State United Teachers. Senator Clinton’s latest book, Living History, released in June of 2000 was an immediate best seller with more than 1.5 million copies sold in the United States, and another 1.5 million copies sold abroad.

Loretta Collins Arnett grew up in a segregated Mississippi of the 1940s and early 1950s, where racism was rampant. Nevertheless, her family taught her that an African American woman from the south could succeed if she worked hard, obtained an education, and believed in herself. In 1954, the year that the U.S. Supreme Court issued the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Ms. Arnett left home at the age of 16 to enter Howard University, from which she graduated with a B.S. degree in chemistry, with honors. After completing a chemistry fellowship in Switzerland, she worked as a research chemist for several years. Because of her extensive involvement in community activities, she decided that the best way to improve the economic status of minority and disadvantaged communities was to become a lawyer.

At the age of thirty-five with a husband and two young children, the family moved to New England so that Ms. Arnett could enroll at the Harvard Law School. She chose to focus on tax law at a time when few women and almost no African Americans specialized in that area. She believed she could help increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses by providing advice on tax planning.

After graduation, she entered private practice and then moved to Capitol Hill to become the first African American woman to serve in the Senate. She worked hard, obtained an education, and believed in herself. In 1954, the year that the U.S. Supreme Court issued the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Ms. Arnett left home at the age of 16 to enter Howard University, from which she graduated with a B.S. degree in chemistry, with honors. After completing a chemistry fellowship in Switzerland, she worked as a research chemist for several years. Because of her extensive involvement in community activities, she decided that the best way to improve the economic status of minority and disadvantaged communities was to become a lawyer.

At the age of thirty-five with a husband and two young children, the family moved to New England so that Ms. Arnett could enroll at the Harvard Law School. She chose to focus on tax law at a time when few women and almost no African Americans specialized in that area. She believed she could help increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses by providing advice on tax planning.

At the beginning of the Clinton Administration, Ms. Arnett became the Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, in the Justice Department and was the first African American to serve in that position. She also became the first African American woman in the Department’s history to hold a position that requires Senate confirmation. During her six years at the Department, Ms. Arnett actively championed women and recruited them for positions of leadership. She restructured the Division not only to increase its effectiveness and efficiency, but to provide advancement opportunities for legal support personnel, many of whom were African American—“single moms.” At one point during her tenure at Justice, the three top positions in the Division were held by women.

Ms. Arnett’s professional excellence has been widely recognized. She is an elected Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and an elected member of the American Law Institute. She served on the governing council of the ABA Section of Taxation and was a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. She currently serves on the ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct, the ABA Task Force on Gatekeeper Regulation and the Profession, and the Board of Directors of the American Bar Retirement Association.

Ms. Arnett has been honored with numerous awards, including the Harvard Black Law Students Association’s “Lifetime Achievement Award for Black Alumni” in 1997; the U.S. Department of Treasury “Chief Counsel’s Award” in 1999; “Special Recognition for Contributions to the Tax System” from the ABA Section of Taxation in 2000; and the “Charlotte E. Ray Award” from the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the National Bar Association’s Women Lawyers Division in 2004.

Ms. Arnett’s energy is boundless. At an age when many would choose retirement, she chose to explore other professional endeavors, as a mediator and as an ethics consultant. In these new areas, she continues to influence and act as a role model for those who know her.