



## Eleanor Clift Biography 2012

Eleanor Clift is a contributor to Newsweek magazine and the Daily Beast web site. She writes about politics and policy in Washington, and the partisan clashes that are the result of divided government. She is currently assigned to the White House where President Obama faces a difficult reelection. Clift has covered every presidential campaign since 1976 and brings her perspective to analyze the contest between a beleaguered incumbent and an opposition party torn between traditional economic conservatives and the upstart Tea Party.

Clift is a regular panelist on the syndicated talk show, "The McLaughlin Group." She has appeared as herself in several movies, including "Dave," "Independence Day," "Murder at 1600," "Rising Sun," and the CBS series, "Murphy Brown."

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Clift and her late husband, Tom Brazaitis, who was a columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, wrote two books together, "War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics" (Scribner, 1996), and "Madam President: Shattering the Last Glass Ceiling" (Scribner, 2000). Madam President is available in paperback (Routledge Press). Clift's book, "Founding Sisters," is about the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the vote (John Wiley & Sons, 2003). Her recent book, "Two Weeks of Life: A Memoir of Love, Death and Politics" (Basic Books, 2008) is about the loss of her husband together with an examination of how we deal with death in America. "Selecting a President," written with Matthew Spieler (Thomas Dunne Books) will be available May 2012.

Formerly Newsweek's White House correspondent, Clift also served as congressional and political correspondent for six years. She was a key member of the magazine's 1992 election team, following the campaign of Bill Clinton from the start to inauguration day. In June 1992 she was named Deputy Washington bureau chief.

As a reporter in Newsweek's Atlanta bureau, Clift covered Jimmy Carter's bid for the presidency. She followed Carter to Washington to become Newsweek's White House correspondent, a position she held until 1985. Clift began her career as a secretary to Newsweek's National Affairs editor in New York. She was one of the first women at the magazine to move from secretary to reporter.

Clift left Newsweek briefly in 1985 to serve as White House correspondent for The Los Angeles Times. She returned to Newsweek the following year to cover the Iran-Contra scandal, which embroiled President Reagan and tarnished his administration. Clift has covered every presidential campaign since 1976, and was part of Newsweek's special project team following the 1984, 2000, 2004 and 2008 elections, each of which resulted in a book. The most recent, "A Long Time Coming," written by Evan Thomas and based on the Newsweek team's reporting (Public Affairs, 2009) chronicles the history-making campaign of Barack Obama.

Clift lives in Washington, D.C., where she is on the advisory council of the International Women's Media Foundation, the board of the Center for Politics and Journalism, and the Board of Governor's of the National Hospice Foundation.