

Rebecca Sive: Biography, Honors and Publications

Overview

Listed in *Feminists Who Changed America*, (University of Illinois Press) and *Who's Who in America*, Rebecca is a nationally-recognized expert on women in politics, women's health and women's economic security.

Rebecca has been an advocate and spokesperson for numerous national and local women's organizations, including the National Women's Political Caucus, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Eleanor Foundation and Women Employed.

Rebecca is represented by Leading Authorities, a national speakers' bureau. See: http://www.leadingauthorities.com/23833/Rebecca_sive.htm

Rebecca writes for [The Huffington Post](#) and [RH Reality Check](#). Her writing has been extensively picked-up by other national and international publications. See here for a selected list: <http://www.rebeccasive.com>.

Rebecca's executive experience in the corporate sector includes officer positions for Playboy Enterprises, Inc. and for LifeOnKey, Inc., an international health information technology company.

Rebecca was a Commissioner of the Chicago Park District, an independent unit of Illinois government, and a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, among other political appointments.

Rebecca is a member of The Economic Club of Chicago and is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Outstanding Community Leadership Award from the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago and The Chicago Urban League Woman of Distinction Award.

Rebecca holds a B.A. in Urban Studies, from Carleton College, from which she received the Distinguished Achievement Award, and an M.A. in American History, from the University of Illinois, from which she also received a distinguished achievement award.

Political Thinker, Writer and Organizer

Rebecca's pungent analysis of the 2010 healthcare reform debate, and its impact on women's reproductive rights and access to abortion, was regularly featured in *The Huffington Post Chicago* and national *Politics* editions and picked-up by such respected political media as *The Daily Kos*, *RealClear Politics*, and the general media, including *USA Today*.

In 2009, Rebecca was invited to be the women and politics blogger for the Internet edition of ***Today's Chicago Woman***, a monthly magazine with a readership of over 250,000. The blog, ***SiveSiftings***, was also carried on ***The Chicago Tribune*** website, [Chicago Now](#).

Rebecca has also contributed to the opinion pages of ***The Chronicle of Philanthropy***.

Complementing her writing on social policy and political change, Rebecca was the executive producer and a scriptwriter/editor for the TBS-aired and acclaimed documentary: ***RU 486 and the Politics of Abortion***.

Featuring Cybil Shepherd, and viewed by then presidential candidate Bill Clinton, in the heat of his first presidential campaign, the documentary was the subject of Congressional hearings and influenced President Clinton's decision to issue his first Executive Order, to permit research on RU486 in the U.S.

Following President Obama's election, Rebecca was part of the national summit of leaders who developed a unified women's-issue agenda for him. She was part of a similar gathering at the outset of President Clinton's presidency, and among the founders of the National Women's Agenda coalition, which presented a similar document to President Jimmy Carter.

Throughout these decades of monumental change—from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama, from no women in the U.S. Senate to 16 women—Rebecca has advised woman candidates, including those who first broke down the barriers to women's significant political participation, as well as those who have followed in that first generation's footsteps. Among others, Rebecca has worked with: Geraldine Ferraro; U.S. Senators Mikulski, Landrieu, Stabenow, Klobuchar and Moseley-Braun; Illinois's first woman candidate for Governor, Dawn Clark Netsch; and Illinois' first woman Attorney General, Lisa Madigan.

Rebecca was a founder of Emily's List in Illinois, organizing the first group of members in this key state and worked with the founders on the national launch.

Rebecca was one of the leaders of NARAL Pro-Choice America when it grew from a small, issue-advocacy organization to a national political force.

Rebecca was a lead organizer and spokesperson for the cross-racial, cross-city coalition that elected Chicago's first African-American Mayor, Harold Washington.

During the course of her political work, Rebecca has worked with numerous celebrities. They include: Ann Landers, Carol Burnett, Naomi Wolf, Raquel Welch, Cybil Shepherd, Betty Friedan, a young Chicago organizer named Michelle Obama, Carol Browner and Governor Ann Richards.

Rebecca has advised numerous organizational and advocacy campaigns on their political strategy. See www.rebeccasive.com for a client list.

Public Official

Rebecca has held numerous positions, including: Commissioner, Illinois Human Rights Commission, which adjudicates matters of discrimination; Vice Chair and Member, 1992 World's Fair Authority, (an independent unit of Illinois government); and Commissioner and Chair, of both the Finance and the General Operations committees of the Chicago Park District, also an independent unit of Illinois government.

Advocate and Leader

Rebecca's successful political leadership and advocacy includes the following activities.

Advocate and spokesperson: Rebecca has been an advocate and spokesperson for numerous national and local women's organizations, including the National Women's Political Caucus, Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Eleanor Foundation and Women Employed.

National Leader: Some of Rebecca's national leadership activities include: Co-chair, National Network of Grantmakers; Founding member and Vice-Chair, Jewish Fund for Justice; Chair, NARAL Foundation; Executive Director and board member, The Playboy Foundation; and Chair and board member, Partnership for Democracy (The Youth Project).

Founder and Director of the Women's Issues Network/Women's Issues Network Foundation: The Network was a by-invitation membership organization of women leaders and decision makers, who pooled their influence and money to advocate for politics benefiting women and girls.

The Network achieved a major victory when President Clinton issued his *first* Executive Order, permitting clinical trials of RU-486; when it launched a major voter registration campaign in 1992, the "Year of the Woman;" and in its campaign to educate mothers and families about the importance of environmental health.

Founder and Director of One of the Nation's First Women's Centers: Rebecca led the group that created the first downtown, multi-service women's center and advocacy program in Chicago. At the time, hardly any existed anywhere in the nation.

Rebecca was successful in gathering to the center leading politicians, up to and including the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago, as well as significant philanthropists and business executives, the latter among the first women to hold such positions in large American corporations.

On the political front, this center, the Midwest Women's Center, was the sponsor of the Illinois Women's Agenda, which advocated for policies that seem commonplace now, but at the time required break-through and courageous political leadership. These policies and laws included rules to protect rape victims, anti-domestic violence sanctions, budgets for expanded funded child care for low-income women, and public health services for teenage mothers.

Award Winner

Rebecca is the winner of numerous awards, including awards for distinguished public leadership from both her alma maters, the University of Illinois and Carleton College.

Leading Authorities, www.leadingauthorities.com, Speaker: 2005--
Visitors Committee, **Chicago Humanities Festival**: 2004

Today's Chicago Woman, 20th Anniversary Hall of Fame, 2002
Principal for a Day, **Chicago Public Schools**

The Economic Club of Chicago: elected to membership, 1985
Outstanding Young Citizens Award, **Chicago Jaycees**: 1988

Who's Who in America, 1984; ***Who's Who in Media and Communications***, 1997; ***Who's Who, Emerging Leaders of America, 1987***; ***Who's Who in the Midwest, 1980***; ***Who's Who of American Women***, 1977

Tribute to Chicago Women Award, **Midwest Women's Center**, 1986

Outstanding Leadership and Service Award, **United Negro College Fund**, 1985

Woman of Distinction Award, **Chicago Urban League**, 1984

Kizzy Award, 1983

Outstanding Young Woman of Illinois Award, 1980

"80 Women to Watch in the 80's," ***MS Magazine***, 1980

"80 Chicagoans to Watch in the 80's," ***Chicago Sun Times***, 1980

Outstanding Community Leadership Award, **YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago**, 1979

Board and Advisory Board Appointments (not mentioned above)

Foundations and Organizations (Selected): The Archie Bray Foundation; The Parkways Foundation; Chicago Foundation for Women; and Jewish Community Centers of Chicago

Corporations: NOVA Health Systems and the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation

Advisory Boards (Selected): Women's Business Development Center, Apparel Industry Board; Donor's Forum Women's Committee; Funders' Committee on Voter Registration; Natural Resources Defense Council, Chairman's Council; Overseas Education Fund; United Negro College Fund Telethon, 1984-1985, Chair of Midwest Telethon, The Field Museum Anthropology Alliance

Government: Chicago Commission on Women's Affairs; Illinois Employment and Training Council; Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Advisory Committee on Displaced Homemakers; Illinois Commission on the Status of Women, Employment and Pensions Committee; State of Illinois Youth Council; National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year and IWY Illinois Coordinating Committee

Publications

"Eight Rules to Help Nonprofit Leaders navigate a New World," *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, February 10, 2011

"*Katrina's Aftermath Requires Bold Action*," *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, October 27, 2005

"*Mobilize the '60s Generation Again*," *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, July 22, 2004

"*Under the Mississippi Sun*," *The Outsider*, Summer 2003

Sidebar to article entitled: "*The Art of Disappearing*," reprinted from the *Milwaukee Journal*, in *The Outsider*, Fall 2002

Women's Economic Agenda, a report for the Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council, 1999

Economic Independence for Women: An Action Plan for Illinois, a report for the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois, 1998

Expanding Illinois' Commitment to Public Safety: the Report of the 1997 Survey of HIV/AIDS Prevention Needs and Services in the State of Illinois, a report for the State of Illinois Department of Public Health and the Prevention Community Planning Group, 1998

Chicago's Youth and HIV/AIDS – Making Your Interventions Work, a report for the Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group, 1998

A Profile of Community Area Opportunities for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Chicago, a report for the Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group, May, 1996

The 1995 Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan, a report for the Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group, April 1995

Urban Women's Health Agenda, a report for Mayor Richard M. Daley's Task Force on Women's Health, March, 1994

Strengthen Illinois: An Action Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment, a report for the Illinois Women's Economic Development Summit, June, 1994

Report of Reframing Women's Health: An Intensive Summer Institute, a report for the University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Research on Women and Gender, October, 1994

Your Healthy Home, Your Healthy Community: Action Kit, a monograph for the Women's Issues Network Foundation and Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet, 1994

Toxic Justice: An Elemental Danger to Women's Health, a briefing paper for the Women's Issues Network Foundation, 1994

Science Held Hostage: RU486 and the Politics of Abortion: The Story of the Attempt to Control Your Medical Options through Politics, a guide for documentary for the Women's Issues Network Foundation

"Identifying a Lost Leader: Hannah Shapiro Glick and the 1910 Garment Worker's Strike," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, Summer, 1978

Policy, Board and Staff: an Introduction for Not-For-Profit Community Arts Organizations, Illinois Arts Council, 1978

"Illinois Coalition Gets Tough With Governor: Wins Advocate," Agenda, January, 1977

"Coalition-Building: The Illinois Women's Agenda," in Adade Wheeler's, The Roads They Made ... Women in Illinois History, Chicago, Charles Kerr, 1976

Illinois Women's Agenda Newsletter, co-editor, 1975-1979

Expanding the Humanities to Ethnic and Working Class Women, a report for the American Jewish Committee, 1976

Dialogue on Diversity, a report for the American Jewish Committee, 1976

Forgotten Contributions: Women in Illinois History, a monograph for the American Jewish Committee, the Illinois Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Humanities Council, 1976

"*Women in Print*," Women's Studies Newsletter, Fall/Winter 1975-1976

Chicago Women's Directory/Guia para las Mujeres de Chicago, Chicago, Inforwomen, 1974

"*The Legacy of Feminism*," Feminist Voice, Fall 1971