

with a feminist orientation and expertise in the field of family law. Hillary had an opportunity to build a practice in an area of law she cared about passionately and that, with hindsight, raised few if any of the conflict-of-interest questions that would haunt her and her husband in later years. This was an option she never seriously considered. Married to a young politician who was earning just \$6,000 a year and already thinking about raising funds to run for governor, Hillary had obvious reasons for preferring the security and steady salary she could earn with an established firm. And when asked if Hillary had ever considered practicing domestic law, her good friend Webb Hubbell dismissed the thought. "She wouldn't have been the first," he said, beaming as if Hillary's need to be first went without saying. "There were already two or three women divorce lawyers in Little Rock. So she wouldn't have been the first."

At the white-shoe law firm of Rose, Nash, Williamson, Carroll, Clay and Giroir, later known simply as the Rose Law Firm, Hillary was the first—not just the first woman, but the first Yankee feminist and the first politician's wife in a firm with a long tradition of steering clear of politics.

Never shy about lobbying on his wife's behalf, Bill Clinton had recommended Hillary to Herb Rule, a bankruptcy specialist at Rose who had supported Clinton's 1974 congressional campaign. But it was another Rose attorney, Vince Foster, who was her strongest advocate. A liberal by Arkansas standards, Foster served on a bar association committee that was trying to expand legal representation for poor people. He had met Hillary on a trip to Fayetteville and was hugely impressed by her work with the legal services clinic at the university. Hubbell, who had met Hillary by chance in 1973 when she came to Fayetteville to take the bar exam, was another of her supporters. Other partners worried that hiring the wife of the state attorney would expose the firm to conflict-of-interest problems. Foster couldn't see how. Rose did very little business with state agencies, he argued, and didn't represent any regulated utilities.

Webb Hubbell's memoir, *Friends in High Places*, stresses the hostility Hillary faced from partners who saw her as a threat to the firm's mas-

culine culture. He tells the story of how Hillary went for her interview with name partner Joe Giroir, Jr., and found him dressed in sweaty tennis shorts, smoking a smelly cigar and resting his bare feet on the top of his desk. This does not sound like Giroir, an impeccable dresser with a taste for French provincial furniture and the perpetually tanned, professionally groomed look one associates with luxury hotels and the first-class sections of international flights. Giroir laughingly dismisses the story as inaccurate. "Now, why would I be in my bare feet?" he asks. As he recalls the interview, he had just come from playing squash and while the top buttons of his shirt were open, he had no idea that Hillary felt uncomfortable until much later when she told him, "I thought you were testing me."

Like other women of the time who were breaking the gender barrier in all-male offices, Hillary undoubtedly had a lot to put up with, but she was more than capable of taking care of herself. Assertive to a fault, Hillary had a high degree of confidence in her superior intelligence—Hubbell found her "frighteningly smart"—and no trouble expressing her opinions, even as a first-year associate. Ironically, though perhaps not surprisingly, most of the overt hostility to the firm's first "lady lawyer" came from the female secretarial staff. Hillary's refusal to conform to the ideal of Southern femininity marked her in their eyes as a sad case, and the secretaries made snide remarks about her unplucked eyebrows and her attempts to diet by munching on lettuce leaves that she brought from home in a plastic bag. Some of the firm's male partners also found Hillary abrasive, and perhaps even slightly intimidating. Although Hillary had been named by President Jimmy Carter to the board of the Legal Services Corporation, an achievement that for many an attorney would have been the capstone of years of work on bar committees and in the political trenches, she would occasionally turn up at the office dressed in blue jeans, or in one instance in a pair of orange pants more suitable for beach wear.

Hillary was assigned to work in the firm's small litigation section, where she proved to be uncharacteristically nervous in her first court appearance, defending against a plaintiff who claimed to have found a mouse's hindquarters in a can of beans. However, she showed a

good understanding of office politics by attaching herself to an influential mentor. Just two years older than Hillary, Vince Foster had graduated first in his class from the University of Arkansas Law School, and he was fast making a reputation in the state as the Clint Eastwood of corporate litigation. Every inch the strong, silent type, he prepared his cases so thoroughly that many an opponent agreed to settle rather than risk a face-off with Foster before a judge and jury.

In a state where it seemed that everyone had some childhood connection with everyone else, it was perhaps not so great a coincidence that Foster had attended Miss Mary's School for Little Folks in Hope, Arkansas, where one of his classmates was Billy Blythe, soon to change his last name to Clinton. Although the boys were near neighbors, they had little in common. Billy was the pudgy boy who worked hard to make other kids like him, sometimes too hard. Vince, nicknamed Pencil, had been the tall, quiet kid whom other boys respected and every girl wanted for her prom date. As adults, Bill Clinton and Vince Foster were friendly, but their personalities didn't exactly mesh. Foster's reserve made it hard to know at times whether he was being serious or ironic. The story is that during his campaign for attorney general, Clinton had tried hard to sell himself to Foster, holding forth at length about all the good things he hoped to do for Arkansas. Foster listened deadpan and when the presentation was finished, commented in a level voice, "Okay. I'm all fired up."¹¹

Even in the litigation department, Rose lawyers were expected to be able to attract new clients to the firm. For a young woman with no local connections, this was no easy task, and Hillary's lack of enthusiasm for the business world only made it more difficult. Like many newly minted lawyers of her generation, she was attracted to the power and salary potential of corporate law, but she didn't care much for corporations. In 1977, the same year she joined the Rose firm, Hillary contributed a chapter to a book entitled *Children's Rights: Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by Patricia Vadin and Ilene Brody, in which she once again called for self-appointed children's rights advocates to sue the nuclear power industry, manufacturers of "junk food" and other businesses whose activities might have negative ef-

EXHIBIT 2

July 21, 1993, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

NAME: Vincent W. Foster Jr.

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HEADLINE: White House Aide Found Dead; Close Associate of the Clintons

BYLINE: By GWEN IFILL, Special to The New York Times

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Wednesday, July 21

BODY:

The deputy White House counsel, an Arkansas native who was recruited for the job by Hillary Rodham Clinton, was found dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound Tuesday night at a park in northern Virginia.

Vincent W. Foster Jr., 48, who like President Clinton, was a native of Hope, Ark., was a senior partner at the Rose law firm in Little Rock, Ark., until earlier this year when he moved to Washington to join the Clinton Administration.

Mr. Foster was a close associate of Mrs. Clinton, and had acted as her representative on many legal matters at the White House, including the search for a Supreme Court justice and arguments over her status as a de facto Federal official, which validated the secret hearings of her task force health care.

A spokesman for the United States Park Police said Tuesday night that Mr. Foster's body had been discovered in Fort Marcy Park near here shortly after 6 P.M. He was taken to Fairfax Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

'True and Trusted Friend'

In a statement released by the White House Tuesday night, Mr. Clinton mourned the death of a friend he had known for more than 40 years.

"His family has lost a loving husband and father," Mr. Clinton said. "America has lost a gifted and loyal public servant, and Hillary and I have lost a true and trusted friend."

He added, "My deepest hope is that whatever drew Vince away from us this evening, his soul will receive the grace and salvation that his good life and good works earned."

White House officials working late into the evening and early morning hours were devastated by the news, which was delivered to the President as he concluded an hourlong appearance on the "Larry King Live" call-in program on CNN.

Spends Time With Family

Mr. Clinton had agreed to continue on the program for an additional half-hour but changed his plans after he was notified during a commercial break late in the hour that Mr. Foster's body had been positively identified. Aides said he spent the rest of the evening with Mr. Foster's wife, Lisa, and their three children.

"People around here are totally devastated," one senior Administration official said early this morning. "They don't know what to do."

White House officials would not speculate Tuesday night about what may have caused Mr. Foster to take his own life.

"Hillary and I love his wife and their three children," Mr. Clinton said in the statement Tuesday night. "And we want to draw them close to our hearts and keep them in our prayers in this painful moment of grief."

Group From Arkansas

Mr. Foster's special relationship with the Clintons made him a member of the intimate group of Arkansans who followed them to the White House. Along with Mr. Foster, two other senior Administration lawyers, Webster Hubbell at the Justice Department and William H. Kennedy 3d at the White House, were also drawn from the Rose law firm. Mr. Hubbell is Attorney General Janet Reno's chief liaison to the White House.

The group had lately been criticized in some quarters here as being too powerful an influence in the White House. Mr. Kennedy played a critical role in the botched handling of the White House travel staff investigation. Mr. Foster had been actively involved in the search for a Supreme Court Justice and was one of the lawyers who traveled to Boston to interview a potential nominee, Stephen G. Breyer, in his hospital bed.

Mr. Clinton also brought several other old friends from Arkansas to the White House, including Thomas F. McLarty 3d, his chief of staff, and Bruce Lindsey, his personnel director. The group often socialized together in Washington and several were members of the Country Club of Little Rock until earlier this year.

While at the Rose firm, Mr. Foster represented the interests of the powerful Stephens investment firm. He reported on his financial disclosure statement that he earned \$295,000 from the law firm last year.

Mr. Foster's sister, Susan Foster Anthony, is a senior Justice Department official and is married to former Representative Beryl Anthony of Arkansas.

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