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### **Walter F. Mondale**

The son of a Methodist clergyman and elementary school teacher, Walter F. Mondale was born in 1928 in southern Minnesota. The family lived in several small towns near the Iowa border. Mondale's first major job in politics was managing Hubert H. Humphrey's successful 1948 campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Mondale received a BA in political science from the University of Minnesota in 1951. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953, he returned to the University of Minnesota's law school. After receiving his degree cum laude in 1956, he went into practice in Minneapolis.

In 1960, Mondale was appointed to the position of Minnesota State Attorney General. He was subsequently elected to that office in 1962. While Attorney General, he drafted a brief in the landmark Gideon case that went before the U.S. Supreme Court. His brief supported the right of indigent defendants to counsel. It was eventually co-signed by attorneys general from more than 20 other states.

It was an appointment again, in 1964, that first took Mondale to the U.S. Senate, replacing Hubert Humphrey when he was elected Vice President with President Lyndon Johnson. In 1966 and 1972, Mondale ran for the same seat and won. During his time in the Senate, his committee assignments included: the Finance Committee, the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He was Chair of the Select Committee on Equal Education Opportunity and the Intelligence Committee's Domestic Task Force.

In 1976, Mondale was elected Vice President with President Jimmy Carter. He was considered an "activist" Vice President, which can be seen in the role he played helping Southeast Asian refugees and the 1979 UN Conference on Indochinese Refugees. Carter and Mondale were defeated in the 1980 election. In 1984, Mondale was the Democratic Party's nominee for president against Republican Ronald Reagan, who won

the general election. In 2002, Mondale was on the ballot again, standing in for Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone who died in a plane crash shortly before the election.

After the 1984 election, Mondale returned to practicing law, teaching, studying and traveling. He has also worked on many corporate boards as well as continuing to work in public service. He was America's Ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996. He chaired a bipartisan group that looked at campaign finance reform. And in 1998, he traveled to Jakarta as President Clinton's special envoy to Indonesia on economic issues.

Mondale is Senior Counsel at the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis.