Alice Mitchell Rivlin
Doctor of Laws

Alice Rivlin has devoted much of her long and distinguished career to working with the Federal budget. She was the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office, a post she held from 1975 to 1983. She has held several posts at the prestigious Brookings Institution, and is a prolific author and editor of books and articles on budget, tax, health care, and related public policy issues. Her books include “Reviving the American Dream: the Economy, the States, and the Federal Government” (1992), “Systematic Thinking for Social Action” (1971), and “The Role of the Federal Government in Financing Higher Education (1961).”

In 1993 President Clinton named Ms. Rivlin assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget and in 1994 she was named director. She served with distinction in that position until 1996, when she was appointed to a four-year term as vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to run concurrently with a full fourteen-year term as a member of the Board.

The influential British journal, The Economist, once characterized Alice Rivlin as “a deficit hawk with razor-sharp talons” in recognition of a career that has focused on the daunting challenge of balancing the Federal budget. Her keen insights into national fiscal policy have made major contributions to the national debate on how best to accomplish that goal. She is a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship, has taught at Harvard University and at George Mason University, has served on the boards of directors of several corporations, and is a past president of the American Economic Association.

Born in Philadelphia, Ms. Rivlin grew up in Indiana and still considers herself a Hoosier. She holds an undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr (1952) and earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Radcliffe College (1958).