

Gladys H. DeClouet

Former Executive Leader at BP,
Burger King & Jack in the Box

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR | EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
SPEAKER



Leadership Shaped by Courage

Gladys H. DeClouet has spent her career accomplishing what many believed was impossible. From becoming the first female engineer in offshore oil and gas exploration and production to serving in senior executive leadership positions with BP, Burger King, and Jack in the Box, she consistently broke barriers while leading organizations generating billions in annual revenue and employing more than 30,000 people under her direct areas of responsibility.

Gladys is the author of *A Layered Life: Breaking Barriers as a Trailblazing Black Woman in Corporate America*, a Bronze Award recipient from the Nonfiction Authors Association, an Amazon #1 Best Seller and #1 New Release, and a National Indie Excellence Award finalist.

Drawing on decades of executive leadership, Gladys H. DeClouet inspires current and future leaders to break barriers, lead with integrity and courage, navigate change, and create lasting impact in their organizations, communities, and lives.



Why Audiences Connect with Gladys

Gladys brings a rare combination of executive leadership experience, personal resilience, and compelling storytelling to every presentation. Drawing on leadership roles with BP, Burger King, and Jack in the Box, she shares practical lessons learned while leading large organizations through growth, change, and complex business challenges.

Her presentations combine authentic stories with actionable leadership insights, leaving audiences inspired to lead with greater courage, resilience, integrity, and purpose.



Speaking Philosophy

Leadership is not defined solely by titles or results. It is measured by the opportunities we create for others, the integrity with which we lead, and the lasting impact we leave behind. Gladys believes the most successful leaders cultivate courage, resilience, continuous learning, and a commitment to helping others succeed.

Career Highlights



First female engineer
in offshore oil & gas
exploration & production



Former Executive Leader
at BP, Burger King &
Jack in the Box



Led organizations
generating billions in
annual revenue



Directed organizations
employing more than
30,000 people



Award-winning
author



Featured in leading
business publications &
podcasts



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Signature Presentations

Each presentation is customized to address the goals, challenges, & strategic priorities of your organization, industry, and audience.



Breaking Barriers and Building Opportunity

Drawing from decades of executive leadership experience, Gladys demonstrates how courageous leadership creates opportunities for individuals, strengthens organizational culture, and drives lasting business success. Participants leave with practical strategies for leading through adversity while empowering others to thrive.



Creating Cultures of Trust, Integrity, Accountability, and Inclusion

High-performing organizations are built on trust, collaboration, accountability, and inclusion. Gladys shares practical leadership strategies for creating environments where individuals feel valued, engaged, & empowered to contribute their best work.



Leadership Lessons from a Lifetime of Firsts

Gladys shares the leadership principles that enabled her to continually succeed in environments where few people looked like her. Through personal stories and executive experience, audiences discover practical approaches for overcoming obstacles, building credibility, and leading with confidence.



Leading Through Change with Courage

Organizational change can create uncertainty, but it also presents opportunities for growth and innovation. Gladys explores how leaders can navigate change with confidence while maintaining trust, resilience, and organizational alignment.



Resilience, Reinvention, and Career Growth

Success rarely follows a straight path. Gladys shares how resilience, adaptability, and continuous learning enable leaders to overcome setbacks, embrace new opportunities, and build meaningful careers.



Mentorship, Sponsorship, and Leadership That Lasts

Strong leaders develop future leaders. Gladys explains the critical differences between mentoring and sponsorship while demonstrating how intentional leadership development creates lasting organizational impact.

What Audiences Will Gain

Participants leave with practical strategies to:

- Lead with courage and integrity
- Navigate organizational change
- Build resilient teams
- Strengthen leadership confidence
- Develop future leaders
- Create inclusive, high-performing cultures
- Transform challenges into opportunities

Ideal Audiences

- Executive Leadership Conferences
- Corporate Leadership Programs
- Universities and Business Schools
- Engineering and STEM Programs
- Women's Leadership Conferences
- Chambers of Commerce
- Employee Resource Groups
- Community Leadership Organizations

Honors & Recognition

- Amazon #1 Best Seller
- Amazon #1 New Release
- Bronze Award — Nonfiction Authors Association
- National Indie Excellence Award Finalist

Featured In

- Fast Company
- CEOWORLD Magazine
- Authority Magazine
- Success Made to Last
- Leadership on the Rocks
- Women Offshore
- Silver Disobedience
- Black Enterprise Magazine
- ...and many more

Selected Praise for *A Layered Life*

"A mirror and a roadmap."

"A Layered Life is courage wrapped in grace."

"A powerful, honest, and deeply necessary read."