GLORIA W. WHITE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2011 – BEVERLY M. OWENS

In her 32 years at the School of Law, Beverly M. Owens has supported the education and research endeavors of thousands of law faculty members and students.

During Owens’ time at the law school, colleagues say Owens has played a key role in creating a collaborative environment that fosters learning, professional development and advocacy among students, faculty and administrators.

“She is the cheerful, positive, professional problem-solver for many faculty and staff at the law school,” says Kent Syverud, JD, dean of the School of Law and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “She embodies a ‘can-do’ spirit, perhaps because she really can do almost everything.”

In providing support for law faculty, Owens balances the demands of faculty, students, journal and casebook editors, federal and state judges, political and government officials, local and visiting lawyers, and university alumni. Her aptitude for mentoring and training administrators and undergraduate work-study students has allowed her to create a network of autonomous, motivated and skilled faculty-support professionals.

“Owens creates a positive working environment and encourages innovation from her staff every day,” a colleague wrote of her. “Her top priority is to fairly treat all of the assistants to faculty and help them efficiently and evenhandedly support the work of all the members of the culturally diverse faculty and student body.”

Owens also serves as an ambassador for the School of Law and for Washington University by coordinating the annual judicial clerkship application process in concert with the Career Services Office.

“Bev deserves this award because she works tirelessly to help the students achieve success,” another colleague wrote. “Bev understands that in her support of the faculty and students, she helps students, learn, grow and graduate.”

Owens joined the School of Law in 1979 and has served in her current position since 2005. While at the law school, she has remained involved in the overall WUSTL community, serving as a volunteer for the 2003-04 Sesquicentennial Celebration and annual Commencement day activities and as a co-coordinator for the annual Danforth Campus Staff Day golf tournament.

Source: Record, June 7, 2011