Celebrating David Becker’s 50 Years of Service

Plans are under way to mark the 2012 milestone of Professor David M. Becker’s 50th year of teaching. Memories and photos are pouring in. A Steering Committee and an At Large Committee, fondly calling itself “The Becker Brigade,” now total more than 170 members. A tribute website is under construction, and celebratory activities are in the works to coincide with Law Alumni Weekend, October 26–27, 2012.

Festivities will kick off with a symposium at the law school on Friday, October 26, 2012 focusing on The Law School in the New Legal Environment, featuring top legal scholars discussing recent dramatic shifts in legal education. The day will round out with a reception and dinner honoring Professor Becker, who currently serves as associate dean for external relations and the Joseph H. Zumberalen Professor Emeritus of the Law of Property. On Saturday, October 27, 2012, alumni will have the opportunity to visit with Professor Becker during “Office Hours.” Festivities will continue with Reunion Class parties for class years ending in 2 and 7 at various restaurants in Clayton, Missouri.

If you would like to get involved with the celebratory effort, please email Becker50Years2012@wulaw.wustl.edu.

Beverly Owens Receives Gloria White Award

In recognition of her dedication to the success of faculty and students at the law school, Beverly M. Owens was recognized with the 2011 Gloria W. White Distinguished Service Award. Presented annually at Staff Day, the prestigious award is given to a nonacademic staff member for exceptional effort and contributions that have resulted in the betterment of the university.

Owens, assistant director for faculty support, has worked at Washington University for 35 years, 32 of which have been devoted to furthering the educational, research, and professional development endeavors of thousands of law faculty members and students.

“She is the cheerful, positive, professional problem-solver for many faculty and staff at the law school,” says Kent Syverud, dean 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 needs 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 skilled faculty-support professionals.

Among her many roles, Owens coordinates the annual judicial clerkship application process in concert with the Career Services Office. She also has remained involved in the overall university community, serving in a number of volunteer roles.