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Beth Mobley Memorial

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**BETH MOBLEY MEMORIAL
TOURO LAW SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

Howard A. Glickstein *

If there were an Olympics for librarians, Beth Mobley would win gold.

If there were an Olympics for being a good person, Beth Mobley would win gold.

Beth was a true gem of a person. She excelled in her profession and was kind and generous in her dealings with other people.

I first met Beth over 35 years ago. I was then the dean of the University of Bridgeport School of Law, and we were looking for a senior librarian for our Library staff. I called Roy Mersky who was then the Director of Libraries at the University of Texas School of Law—one of the best law libraries in the United States. Roy prided himself on training librarians for other law schools. Roy had an alumni group who worked in some of the best law libraries in the United States. Beth was working for Roy at the time, and he enthusiastically recommended her for the position at Bridgeport. We hired Beth and she proceeded to establish a reputation similar to the one she later carved out here. When a library position opened up here at Touro, I immediately thought of Beth and managed to convince her to join our library staff.

Beth was meticulous in everything she did. She managed the growth of our Judaica collection to see it become one of the best in the country. She was there to handle collections of papers we received from lawyers and judges, such as the papers of Judge Jacob Fuchsberg. When a collection of Vanity Fair covers was donated to the Law School, it was Beth who organized the gift, arranged a display of the covers on the fourth floor of the Law School and wrote a description to guide viewers.

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And Beth was personally helpful to me. In the days before I was forced to have a computer in my office, Beth would prepare lists of restaurants and other attractions in cities I was visiting. We also collaborated on a couple of occasions on costumes for Fright Night. I do not remember what they were but since they were conceived by Beth, I am sure they were very clever.

When Roy Mersky died, Beth and I went to Austin to attend his memorial service. I remember being impressed at how warmly Beth was greeted by the many other Roy Mersky protégés who had gathered that day. Many stories were told about Roy at the service, and Touro had one of its own. Roy had visited us to give us advice on growing our library, and Beth and I took him to dinner in Huntington. When Roy surveyed the restaurant's wine list, he asked the waiter why no Texas wines were included. The waiter looked surprised and asked, "Are there Texas wines?" Soon after Roy returned to Texas, Beth received a package of Texas wines for us to give to the waiter.

We often wonder what makes an institution great. Usually, we search among the top leadership of the institution. But more often it is people like Beth Mobley who are at the heart of great and significant institutions. Beth made an everlasting contribution to Touro. Her fingerprints are on many phases of our success. Her untimely death is a great loss to Touro and to those of us who worked with her. I can say with confidence that she will be missed.