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BETH MOBLEY: THE CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL

*Rodger D. Citron**

I began teaching at Touro Law Center in August 2004. Soon after I arrived, I asked for research assistance from Beth Mobley – I requested full copies of the cases in the casebook for my Civil Procedure course. She responded promptly, competently, and graciously. From that semester on, I asked for Beth’s help frequently. I never was disappointed. She always provided superb assistance. Truly, Beth was the consummate professional.

When time was of the essence, Beth could get you what you needed when you needed it. In the spring of 2005, I was writing a short article for an online publication. While checking my research, I needed to see a Congressional Record excerpt from the 1930s, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. Late in the morning, I asked Beth if it was possible to get the page before 5 pm that day. She sent me a hard copy of the page within an hour, and the article was timely published.¹

Beth was resourceful. I relied on her extensively while working on the law school’s “Persecution through Prosecution” conference that was held in Paris, France, in the summer of 2011. Her greatest coup occurred when, after no one – including our consultants in Paris – could locate the French author of an important book about the Dreyfus Affair. The author was General Andre Bach; his book about the Dreyfus Affair drew on records contained in French military archives.² Where others failed, Beth succeeded, tracking General Bach down and

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¹ See http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2005/04/strifecycles.html. The requested legislative history was the source of the following quotation in the article: “Sen. William King, for example, described the court as the nation’s ‘Ark of the Covenant’ and warned that ‘impair[ing] the power and authority of the Supreme Court . . . [would] arouse grave apprehensions in the minds of all thoughtful Americans.’”

² See General Andre Bach, *The Behavior of the French Army During the Dreyfus Affair*, 29 TOURO L. REV. 17 (2013).

putting me in touch with him. Without her efforts, the conference surely would not have been as insightful and rewarding.

Beth was intelligent. We not only considered strategies for finding the materials I requested, we also discussed the fruits of her research. On one project, we talked through whether the legislative history she found would undermine a legal claim that I was exploring in connection with a pro bono project. I thought it did; my inclination was confirmed when Beth agreed.

A final observation: Beth commuted to school on the Long Island Railroad. So do I. This shared experience gave us an opportunity to talk about many things, not just our work at the law school. I smile today thinking about the many stories she told – about her family, especially her nieces and nephews; about the food in Louisiana; and about her experiences working at other law schools.

From my many conversations with Beth, I sensed that she loved her life and work. We were lucky to benefit from Beth's expert efforts for so many years in the law school library.