

Glickstein honored with Burns Award

By Brandon Vogel

He helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He instilled social justice into the minds of thousands of law students. He instituted mandatory pro bono and diversity programs as the third dean of Touro Law Center.

Howard Glickstein's lifelong commitment to social justice and the law has been honored with the 2013 Haywood Burns Award, given by the Committee on Civil Rights.

Named for the former City University of New York Law School dean, the award recognizes an individual whose contributions reflect Burns' commitment to the struggle for equality and justice, while recognizing the unique qualities that made Burns an outstanding advocate for civil rights and the powerless.

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center nominated Glickstein for the award, which he will receive on January 24.

Moving society forward

Glickstein began his legal career as a labor law associate at Proskauer Rose

LLP. He next served as a staff attorney with the Appeals and Research Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. In that position, he helped draft the landmark anti-discrimination legislation that ended racial segregation and unfair voting practices.

President Carter appointed Glickstein director of the Task Force on Civil Rights Reorganization. He also was general counsel and staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, where he led national efforts to overcome racial intolerance.

Distinguished dean

Glickstein imparted his passion for social justice to the next generation of lawyers when he shifted his focus to legal education. He was founding director of the Notre Dame Center for Civil Rights, professor and director of the Equal Employment Litigation Clinic at Howard University School of Law, and dean of the University of Bridgeport School of Law.

When he became dean of Touro Law Center in 1986, minority enrollment was low and tensions were high

between white students and students of color, according to Douglas D. Scherer, professor of law at Touro.

In 1990, Scherer, along with 15 students of color and minority alumni, discussed how to make Touro more inclusive. They recommended that Touro create The Legal Education Access Program (LEAP), a mentoring and academic support program for first-year students of color. Glickstein agreed and unwaveringly supported the program in the face of protests from white students.

"Without his sensitive and strong support, the LEAP would not have survived," wrote Scherer, in a nomination letter of support.

The program continues 22 years later and students of color now represent 37 percent of Touro's first-year law students, according to Scherer.

Glickstein also instituted the school's 40-hour pro bono requirement and was instrumental in developing the Long Island Black Bar Association. He retired from Touro Law in 2004. The law school created the Annual Howard A. Glickstein Civil Rights and Public Policy Lecture in his honor.

THURSDAY



Glickstein

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale Law School, Glickstein is co-chair of the ERASE Racism Board of Directors. He is past president of the Society of American Law Teachers.

Within the State Bar Association, he is a member of the Labor and Employment Law Section. He was a member of the Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, Committee on Women in the Law and the Special Committee on Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System. ♦

Vogel is NYSBA's Media Writer.