

Recent Graduates Find a Way to Give Back

They came to Boston College Law School as strangers from geographically distant areas of the United States: Los Angeles, Houston, and Brooklyn. But three members of the class of 1995 left the Law School as close friends with a common goal: to help another African-American law student during the sometimes-trying first year.

That lucky person is Valene Sibley '98, their first award winner.

The idea took shape for Michael Scott Little, Randall McMillan, and Marcus Stevenson during their final semester and became the Little-McMillan-Stevenson Scholarship by early 1996. The three provided a \$250 book stipend to be awarded to the winner of an essay contest on affir-

mative action. The person selected was also required to demonstrate a clear commitment to community and self-improvement.

In addition to offering a financial award, the scholarship was a way for Little, McMillan, and Stevenson to reach out to a newcomer. Though as students they had been active inside and outside the classroom, participating in oral advocacy competitions, law reviews, the Black Law Students Association, and other campus organizations, they realized how overwhelming law school can sometimes seem for new students.

Their plan is to be a resource for Sibley, whose background shows her to be a worthy recipient. Already helping disadvantaged youths through Upward Bound and other programs, Sibley was inspired to come to law school by the examples of the late United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. She also has been inspired by the deed of Little, McMillan, and Stevenson and hopes that she, too, will be able to assist a Boston College Law School student in the future. "I was appreciative that three alumni got together to do this," she says. "That's very impressive and part of the reason I applied for the scholarship."

Little, McMillan, and Stevenson once again have scattered across the country. Little and McMillan are now associates in law firms in Los Angeles and New York, respectively, while Stevenson has relocated near Washington, DC, to become chief assistant counsel for enforcement for the Federal Drug Administration. Nonetheless, they plan to sponsor another essay contest and stipend for students who entered Boston College Law School this fall.

"We're recently out of law school and not wealthy. It's not how much you can do, but that you thought to do something," Stevenson says. "This was a small thing that we felt would have had a significant impact on us when we were students. It has been a great privilege for us to do this. We have received a lot of positive feedback, and we're pleased to know that people are interested in and appreciative of our efforts." ■



Valerie Sibley '98 became the first recipient of the Little-McMillan-Stevenson Scholarship, which offers support to African-American students