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Boston College Law School

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12/15/08--Boston College Law School is pleased to announce that Mercedes S. Evans (class of '78) is this year's 2008 Bishop James Augustine Healy Award recipient. The award was presented at a black tie dinner on Saturday, November 22nd. The Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, The Most Reverend Guy Sansaricq, was the guest speaker.

Evans currently serves as the Director of the Office of Civil Rights Compliance & Diversity at Mass College of Art, and she is a Vice-President of BC Law's Black Alumni Network (BAN). In the program book for the event, BAN referred to her as a founding member of the Network and called her a "stalwart member and supporter" of the Network's efforts to provide a link between the Boston College Law School and its Black alumni.

"Her recognition is justly earned and most fitting throughout her career, she has made contributions to society and rendered service to the Black Catholic community and to her parish that bring honor to the Law School and Boston College."

About the Bishop James Augustine Healy Award

The eldest of ten children born to Michael Healy, an Irishman, and Mary Eliza Smith, a slave from Macon, Georgia, James Augustine Healy served as the first chancellor of the Diocese of Boston. In 1875, he became the first Black Catholic Bishop in the United States of America and the second Ordinary of the Diocese of Portland, Maine.

The James Augustine Healy Award is given to an individual who has provided strong and effective leadership and service to the Black Catholic community. The recipient of this award has fostered educational opportunities and has demonstrated strong personal faith and compassion. He/she possesses intense interest in encouraging a healthy Black Catholic identity and has been an example of a lifestyle reflecting the meaning of the church universal. He/she is not only concerned with, but also sensitive to, the social teaching of the Church.

The first recipient of the Healy award was Judge David Nelson in 1993. The award is given by the Archdiocese of Boston, Office of Cultural Diversity, and Black Catholic Ministries.