



Irving Gordon, 77, Retired Nu Law School Professor

March 16, 1994|By Kenan Heise, Tribune Staff Writer.

Irving A. Gordon, 77, an attorney, certified public accountant and law professor, also had been a rabbi serving from 1941 to 1944 in Savannah, Ga.

A resident of Hyde Park, he died Sunday in Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Professor Gordon, who retired in 1988 from Northwestern University Law School, continued to teach law courses there. He taught federal tax, commercial and constitutional law.

"He was a sweetheart, a beloved teacher," Northwestern University Law School dean Robert Bennett said. "He taught in three wildly different areas of the law, but he mastered each of them. He was a straight talker who would give students very practical answers. He was a very gentle man."

A native of Minsk, Russia, he came to Chicago in 1924. He was a Talmudic scholar and graduated from the Yeshiva in Chicago and was ordained a rabbi.

He attended Northwestern University Law and graduated in 1947. He clerked for Justice Sherman Minton of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals for two years before entering private practice.

In 1967, he joined the staff of Northwestern University Law School and served as an assistant dean of admissions there from 1978 to 1982.

He also was a arbitrator and mediator in legal disputes.

Professor Gordon was called upon in 1969 to help draft parts of a new Illinois Constitution.

Survivors include his wife, Arline; two sons, Dr. David and Jeffrey; two daughters, Debra Gordon Weiner and Dr. Susan Rubenstein; four brothers; and a sister.

