



James Haddad, 49, Nu Law Professor

February 08, 1992|By Kenan Heise.

James B. Haddad, 49, a Northwestern University law professor and former first assistant Cook County state's attorney, was a nationally respected expert on criminal law and criminal procedure. He argued more than 100 appeals, mostly for indigents, while serving as a full-time faculty member.

A resident of the Wrigleyville neighborhood, he died of cancer Friday in Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

"He was the attorney in the area of criminal defense whom everyone else called if they had a question," said Robert Bennett, dean of Northwestern University's law school.

"If he didn't know the answer off the top of his head, he would go and research it. And he never asked anything in return. There was not an ounce of self-promotion in him. He was an unusual and special human being."

Mr. Haddad wrote several books on criminal defense. He was the author of

"Arrest, Search and Seizure," a standard reference for Illinois judges and attorneys.

He also was co-author of "Cases and Comments on Criminal Procedure,"

one of the most widely used law school textbooks.

A Chicago native, he graduated from Loyola Academy and the University of Notre Dame.

He received his law degree and a master of laws degree from Northwestern. Mr. Haddad served in the mid-1960s as an assistant state's attorney, and was part of the team that prosecuted mass murderer Richard Speck's appeal before the Illinois Supreme Court.

He joined the staff of Northwestern's law school in 1969, but went on leave in 1972 to serve two years as first assistant state's attorney under Bernard Carey. While there, he implemented a hiring program for the office based on merit rather than politics.

At Northwestern, he taught constitutional criminal procedure, criminal appellate advocacy, current problems in criminal law and criminal process. In 1981, he was selected by students as winner of the Robert Childres Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence at Northwestern.

He served on the Chicago Police Board, the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, the Illinois Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Illinois Appellate Defender Board of Commissioners and the Federal Magistrate's Selection Committee.

Survivors include his wife, Wendy Meltzer, an attorney; two daughters, Emma and Abigail; and his mother.