



January 01, 1995 | By Lou Carlozo, Tribune Staff Writer.

James A. Rahl, 77, former dean of the Northwestern University School of Law and a faculty member for more than 40 years, died Thursday at home in Evanston.

A native of Wooster, Ohio, Mr. Rahl became an internationally known expert in antitrust law but never forgot his academic roots at Northwestern. Mr. Rahl received his bachelor's degree there in 1939 and his law degree at the School of Law in 1942, serving as editor-in-chief of the Illinois Law Review.

He served in the Army from 1943 to 1946, then joined Northwestern's faculty, where he served as the law school dean from 1972 to 1977. He remained on the school's faculty until his retirement in 1988, at which time he was the Owen L. Coon professor of law.

"He was a wonderful teacher, so thoughtful and decent, and we all loved him," said John Paul Stevens, associate justice for the U.S. Supreme Court and a former student of Mr. Rahl who knew him for almost 50 years.

In 1975, Mr. Rahl was considered the top contender to replace Stevens on the U.S. Court of Appeals after Stevens moved to the Supreme Court. But Mr. Rahl took his name out of contention so he could dedicate more time to the School of Law.

As an academic leader, Mr. Rahl was the dominant force in developing plans in the 1960s and 1970s that would move Northwestern into the top echelon of American law schools, said David S. Ruder, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and a faculty member for 33 years.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Rahl was counsel to the Chicago law firm of Chadwell & Kayser for more than 37 years, beginning in 1952.

An author of several law books, Mr. Rahl also served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Commission of European Communities.

Mr. Rahl is survived by his wife, Jean; his son, Andrew; and three grandchildren.

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