

Norman Leonard, 92, a Defender of Rebels and Dissenters

The New York Times

April 1, 2006 Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section B; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 502 words

Byline: By WOLFGANG SAXON

Body

Norman Leonard, an eloquent courtroom voice for unpopular causes -- West Coast longshoremen in the 1930's, left-wing **dissenters** in the 1950's, free-speech **rebels** and antiwar protesters in the 1960's and 70's -- died on March 7 at a hospital in San Francisco. He was **92**.

His death was reported by the family.

Mr. **Leonard**, who represented the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for five decades, became nationally known with the government's efforts to deport the union's founding president, Harry Bridges, as an undesirable immigrant. Mr. **Leonard** defended him against perjury charges when Mr. Bridges, an immigrant from Australia, was accused of having falsely denied being a Communist at his naturalization hearing.

Widely respected for his skills as a researcher, legal writer and appellate strategist, Mr. **Leonard** wrote the brief in the 1953 appeal of the Bridges case to the Supreme Court, which overturned the union leader's conviction. The court held that Mr. Bridges had been wrongly indicted after the statute of limitations on the charges ran out.

During the same decade, Mr. **Leonard** helped defend West Coast leaders of the Communist Party against charges, under the Smith Act, of advocating the violent overthrow of the government. The Supreme Court reversed their convictions on First Amendment grounds.

He also represented clients called to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, defendants charged with harboring a fugitive, and one who was tried under the Taft-Hartley Act for serving as a union officer while being a member of the Communist Party.

In the 1960's and 70's, Mr. **Leonard** argued for demonstrators protesting hiring practices at San Francisco hotels; students arrested during the "Free Speech" rebellion at the University of California, Berkeley; and Vietnam-era draftees who had refused induction into the Army.

A native of the Bronx, Mr. **Leonard** was born to immigrant parents who moved to the West Coast when he was 15. Enrolling in the University of California, Los Angeles, he majored in political science and, swayed by the Great Depression, opted for the radical political left.

After graduating in 1934, he returned to New York to earn a master's degree in international relations at Columbia in 1935 and a law degree in 1938. Settling in San Francisco, he entered a law firm that focused on waterfront labor matters and that assigned him to defend Mr. Bridges in a free-speech case.

As a law partner, he specialized in labor-related law, touching on fair labor standards, labor-management relations, pensions, profit-sharing and workers' compensation.

Norman Leonard, 92, a Defender of Rebels and Dissenters

He retired from practice in 1986 as a name partner in what remains the firm of **Leonard** & Carder of San Francisco and Oakland.

Mr. **Leonard** is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marjorie Friedman **Leonard**; two sons, Stephen M., an environmental lawyer in Boston, and Eric M., a professor at Colorado College; a brother, Dr. Alvin **Leonard** of Berkeley; and four grandchildren.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Document-Type: Obituary(Obits)

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); IMMIGRATION (90%); APPEALS (90%); DECISIONS & RULINGS (90%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); POLITICAL PROTESTS (89%); FREEDOM OF SPEECH (89%); POLITICS (89%); DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES (88%); CERTIFICATES, DEGREES & DIPLOMAS (85%); SUPREME COURTS (78%); LITIGATION (78%); TESTIMONY (78%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (77%); COUPS (77%); DEATH & DYING (77%); CITIZENSHIP (76%); POLITICAL SCIENCE (75%); LABOR UNIONS (75%); INDICTMENTS (74%); ARRESTS (74%); NATURALIZATION (74%); PERJURY (73%); GREAT DEPRESSION (73%); STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS (73%); LAW SCHOOLS (73%); LEGAL SERVICES (73%); FREEDOM OF PRESS (73%); STUDENT MISCONDUCT (70%); LAWYERS (70%); WRITERS (68%); CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (67%); RECRUITMENT & HIRING (62%); EMPLOYEE PROFIT SHARING (61%); WORKERS COMPENSATION (50%)

Organization: INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S & WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION (57%)

Industry: MARINE CARGO HANDLING (89%); LAW SCHOOLS (73%); LEGAL SERVICES (73%); LAWYERS (70%); WRITERS (68%); HOTELS & MOTELS (50%)

Person: **Norman Leonard**; Wolfgang Saxon

Geographic: SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA (94%); SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (92%); LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); OAKLAND, CA, USA (57%); CALIFORNIA, USA (94%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); AUSTRALIA (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Law

Load-Date: April 1, 2006