

C. DANIEL LEVY, 48;

LAWYER AIDED IMMIGRANTS

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Body

C. Daniel Levy, who turned to law after studying anthropology and became a nationally known defender of immigrant and refugee rights, died Friday after a long fight with cancer. The West Hollywood resident was 48.

Mr. Levy, a native of Peru, helped litigate numerous landmark cases centering on the rights of naturalized citizens, children and families. Many are complex class action suits that have taken years to resolve.

"We have prematurely lost a great scholar, colleague and friend," said Daniel Grunfeld, president of Public Counsel, where Mr. Levy had headed the Immigrants Rights Project since February. "Daniel will be remembered not only for his extraordinary professional accomplishments, but also for his courage, dignity and gentleness."

Among the best-known cases Mr. Levy worked on was the ultimately successful effort to free six Iraqi opposition leaders held in detention in California.

Mr. Levy's lengthy treatise, "U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Handbook," is recognized as a leading work of its kind on the subject.

Mr. Levy was born in Lima, Peru, where his family ran a textile business. He came to the United States in 1970 and studied philosophy and anthropology at Columbia University in New York.

Mr. Levy entered law school at Columbia, graduating in 1985.

Mr. Levy came to Los Angeles and served during 1986-87 as a staff attorney for El Rescate Legal Services. He represented Central Americans seeking political asylum in the United States.

In 1987, Mr. Levy became a staff attorney with the National Immigration Law Center in Los Angeles. He joined the Los Angeles offices of Bernard P. Wolfson in 1995 as a senior attorney. Mr. Levy entered solo practice in 1999 before joining Public Counsel's staff this year.

Notes

Obituaries

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