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Peter Junger, led Buddhist Temple, studied and taught computer law

Friday, November 24, 2006
Diane Suchetka
Plain Dealer Reporter

Peter Junger, president and religious chairman of the Cleveland Buddhist Temple and professor emeritus at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law, died at his Cleveland home last week.

Junger, 73, was a computer law expert who sued the U.S. government in 1996, claiming his free-speech rights were denied because a federal law forbid him from teaching a computer encryption program to students from Canada or publishing it in a textbook.

The case was eventually settled. But Junger never stopped studying or teaching computer law and dozens of other subjects.

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"He read a lot," said fellow law professor Wilbur Leatherberry. "He was a voracious reader and an eclectic reader. He could consume all of your time."

"Still, it was difficult to resist when he came into your office, because he always had something interesting to say. And very often, he could help."

Just before he died, Junger completed an article on the patentability of computer software, Leatherberry said. Colleagues hope to get it published for Junger posthumously.

Junger was born in 1933, grew up in Wyoming and graduated from Harvard University in 1955 and Harvard Law School in 1958. He worked in real estate law in New York City from 1961 until 1970, when he began teaching at Case.

He retired from Case in 2001 and worked as a visiting professor at the Whittier Law School in California the following academic year. He returned to Cleveland after that.

Over the years, he wrote articles, chapters and books on topics from the Pentagon Papers to Buddhism and human rights.

He was named president of the Cleveland Buddhist Temple in 2003.

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