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JULIO CÉSAR CUETO RÚA, ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT ARGENTINEAN JURISTS, HAS PASSED AWAY

HE WAS AN ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL CENTRIST

HIS PASSING

JULIO César Cueto Rúa, 86, passed away in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cueto Rúa was one of the most prominent Argentinean jurists, with a broad vision and vast knowledge. A law academic and former President of the Economic Science Academy, he was a teacher for many generations of Argentinean lawyers.

Cueto Rúa was an open-minded intellectual, open to the investigation and exchange of ideas. His intellectual stature transcended any label or type of classification. He was always willing to talk with a high level of respect to all, even to those with antagonist positions. Everybody recognized his honesty, knowledge, and good faith. As a politician, he was a traditionalist liberal. In the 1960s, he was the president of the National Federation of the Center Parties.

Cueto Rúa was born in 1920, in La Plata, Argentina, son of a doctor. When he was young he used to play water polo. He was very formal and proper in his behavior, and very precise in his concepts. He was a supporter of “Estudiantes de La Plata” (La Plata Students).

In 1942, at the age of 22, he graduated in law from the National University of La Plata; in 1949, he received his Ph.D. in Social and Legal Sciences. In 1953, he received his master’s degree in Comparative Law, with honors, at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

He was a follower of Carlos Cossio’s Egological Theory of Law. His experience in the United States exposed him to the common law, and enriched his perspective in philosophy of law and comparative law, courses that he taught at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). Every year, he taught courses at universities in the United States, similar to the ones that he taught in Argentine Business University (UADE), CAECE University, and the University of Salvador, where he coordinated the postgraduate course in Science of Law.

Since 1986, he was an emeritus professor of UBA; and from 1999, he was an emeritus professor of the National University of La Plata. In

1996, he won the prize *Konex de Platino* in General Theory and Philosophy of Law.

In the political field, during the revolution period, he was an active member of the Consultative Board of the Buenos Aires Province. In 1957, he worked as Minister of Industry and Trade during the administration of the Argentinean President Pedro Eugenio Aramburú. During that government, Professor Cueto Rúa introduced and defended a liberal economic policy that was challenged by other cabinet members, more inclined to state intervention in the economy, such as Carlos Alconada Aramburú. In 1962, he was candidate for the Conservative Union to the province of Buenos Aires. In 1964, attempting to distance himself from a more radical government, he established the Argentinean Republican Party, an initiative that lasted a short period of time. In 1983, he was very active in the Democratic Party of the Capital, and was the Head of the Democratic Concentration at the national level.

In the 1960s, he supported *Análisis* a legal review directed by Fernando Morduchowicz and edited by Miguel Bonasso. Among many other books, he wrote *El Common Law, Fuentes del Derecho y Una visión realista del Derecho: los jueces y los abogados*.

He worked as a co-judge of the Argentinean Supreme Court, directed the Argentinean Association of Comparative Law, and helped structure international legal institutions. He was married and had three children. The burial took place on May 31 in *Jardín de Paz*, Pilar. [LA NACIÓN]