

In Memoriam: Jerome Cohen

Statement by Terri Marsh

A giant in the fields of Chinese law and reform, human rights, including those of persecuted lawyers in China, and far more, Jerome Cohen stands out today as one of the most impactful of scholars, advocates, and attorney in his chosen field of work. As he said in a 2009 NYU Law Magazine profile, quoted in the law school's [memorial statement](#):

“And what better use for my life? I’ve engaged in meaningful work, and I am having an impact.”

I vividly recall our very first meeting. After enlisting his support for one of my Falun Gong clients, he asked if I practiced Falun Gong. When I smiled and said “yes,” he beamed at me and said: “good for you.” His assistance then and in subsequent years has provided freedom for many who otherwise would still languish in black jails and prisons in China.

But I am not the sole recipient of his advice and mentorship. As the illustrious Chinese law professor, Teng Biao, [noted](#) as “the champion of promoting rule of law and human rights in China..., his support [has been] priceless....” Indeed, all who knew him agree, Jerry used his brilliant to help others including those he trained to help protect the rights of many in China and abroad.

His legacy lives on through his blog, his books, lectures, and articles, and those like Teng Biao learned from and continue to search for freedom for lawyers and dissidents in China.