

# Charles D. Long

Civil War veteran; Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court; law school founder

Justice Charles D. Long's life was shaped by serving in the Union Army during the American Civil War. In 1862 he fought in battles that cost him his left arm, and he carried a bullet wound that never healed. He learned to get along with others because he needed their help to stay well. After returning from the battlefield to Genesee County, Justice Long studied and then practiced law. In 1887 he was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court, and a few years later he helped to found a law school in Detroit. He also supported veterans' causes through leadership in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a group that encouraged government to provide services to veterans, including the payment of monthly pensions.



- **1861–62** Served in Michigan Eighth Infantry Regiment; injured in battle near Savannah, Georgia.
- **1864–87** Elected as county clerk and later as prosecutor; established a law firm; held political appointments, including state military board; served as state commander of the G.A.R.
- **1887–1902** Elected to state Supreme Court; founded forerunner to [Michigan State University College of Law](#); sued to set a precedent in veteran pension cases, since many payments, including his own, were reduced. [Lochren v United States ex rel Long \(1895\)](#).

Justice Long served on the state Supreme Court with other veterans: Justices [Allen B. Morse](#), [Edward Cahill](#), [Claudius B. Grant](#), and [Robert M. Montgomery](#).