



225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1789-2014



## Charles Merrill Hough

### **Born:**

May 18, 1858  
Philadelphia, PA

### **Received Commission:**

June 27, 1906

Service terminated due to appointment in 1916 to the United States Circuit Court for the Second Circuit.

### **Died:**

April 22, 1927

Charles M. Hough could trace his heritage back to colonial settlers of the 1600's. His father, of Quaker heritage, was a Brigadier-General and his mother a descendant of early settlers of Salem, Mass. He attended the Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH for one year and then entered Dartmouth College, from which he graduated in 1879. Hough then read law, was admitted to the bar (1883), and joined a New York City law firm. During the next 23 years, he had a private practice in New York, specializing in admiralty law. Judge Hough's practice was interrupted from 1892 to 1899 while he served in the Naval Militia of New York.

Having become a leading attorney in the maritime bar, Charles Hough was appointed to the District Court. He was known for his clear thinking and sharp mind, and over his years on the S.D.N.Y. he conducted over 1200 trials and wrote 1809 opinions. Judge Hough was held in such high regard by all factions that in 1916 he was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In addition, he was seriously considered for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court several times during his career. Speakers at his memorial service included former Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

During his time on the Second Circuit, Judge Hough was president of the Maritime Law Association of the United States (1919-1927), and was a delegate to the International Conference on Maritime Laws in 1922.

### **Sources:**

"Charles M. Hough, Noted Jurist, Dead", New York Times, April 23, 1927, p. 17.

"Associates Honor Late Judge Hough", New York Times, May 7, 1927, p. 17

Dictionary of American Biography (New York, N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons) (1932)

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>