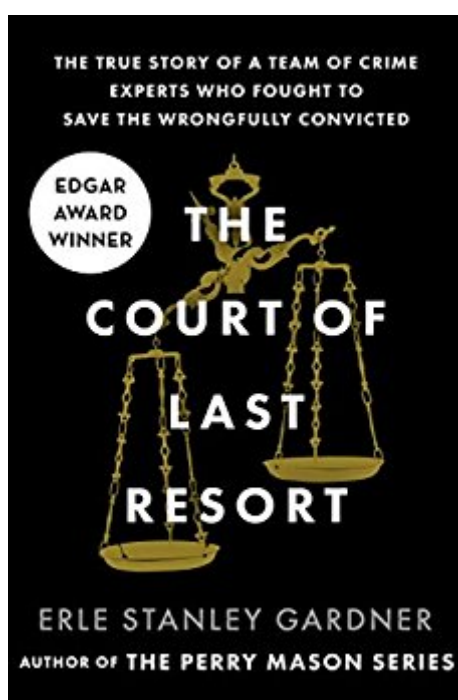


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# The Court Of Last Resort: The True Story Of A Team Of Crime Experts Who Fought To Save The Wrongfully Convicted



## Synopsis

Edgar Award Winner: True stories of miscarriages of justice, legal battles, and landmark reversals, by the creator of Perry Mason. In 1945, Erle Stanley Gardner, noted attorney and author of the popular Perry Mason mysteries, was contacted by an overwhelmed California public defender who believed his doomed client was innocent. William Marvin Lindley had been convicted of the rape and murder of a young girl along the banks of the Yuba River, and was awaiting execution at San Quentin. After reviewing the case, Gardner agreed to help "it seemed the fate of the Red-Headed Killer" hinged on the testimony of a colorblind witness. Gardner's intervention sparked the Court of Last Resort. The Innocence Project of its day, this ambitious and ultimately successful undertaking was devoted to investigating, reviewing, and reversing wrongful convictions owing to poor legal representation, prosecutorial abuses, biased police activity, bench corruption, unreliable witnesses, and careless forensic-evidence testimony. The crimes: rape, murder, kidnapping, and manslaughter. The prisoners: underprivileged and vulnerable men wrongly convicted and condemned to life sentences or death row with only one hope—the devotion of Erle Stanley Gardner and the Court of Last Resort. Featuring Gardner's most damning cases of injustice from across the country, The Court of Last Resort won the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime. Originating as a monthly column in Argosy magazine, it was produced as a dramatized court TV show for NBC.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very informative book. I had to get this copy, since mine had molded. It is very interesting, about those accused of crime, sometimes unjustly. Most time justly. Yet there are cases that, after the fact, this "Court of Last Resort" took it upon themselves to investigate the facts, with their own money, and all of the time they could spare. These are investigators, actual judges, and many [high-priced] attorneys, that wanted only to get to the truth. If guilty, so be it; yet if innocent, to prove it. Which usually took much time going over court records, finding witnesses, running down [new] clues, etc. This is a factual book. The book itself was as the seller described. Shipping was in good time.

Great read! Never get tired of Erle Stanley Gardner.

Review. The court of last resort. \*\*\*\*. Open road media. 4/11/17 This book, written by Earle Stanley Gardner, was originally published in 1952. This edition has been updated by Open Road Media, with new material included. You might think that it would be somewhat dated, but I found it to be remarkably relevant for today and quite interesting. Gardner, who died in 1970, was a prolific writer, most famous for his Perry Mason mysteries. He was also a lawyer and an activist who worked to improve the criminal justice system. This nonfiction book describes his activities with an organization he founded, called "The Court of Last Resort" that had the goal of freeing innocent people from prison. Although I expected to learn a lot, I didn't expect to be so well entertained. There was not a dull moment and I eagerly read on. I was sorry when it ended. I learned a lot about the criminal justice system and how things go wrong, resulting in innocent people being incarcerated. He discussed all the main players: the police, the courts, the people, the media, politics, and how they interact. He described different scenarios in which people might be convicted unjustly, illustrating these with true stories from his own experiences with The Court of Last Resorts. What these innocent people endured, and how difficult it was to free them, made for fascinating reading. The lawyers, and investigators that worked tirelessly without pay were heroic examples of what a group of dedicated people can accomplish. He made a number of suggestions about how the justice

system could be improved. I found these quite insightful, things I had never considered before. Sadly, many of the problems they faced in 1952 are still with us today and these ideas are still relevant. The Court of Last Result was dissolved soon after Gardner left in 1960, but other organizations such as the famous Innocence Project have taken on this Herculean task. I highly recommend this book for a fascinating look at the criminal justice system with its successes and failures. The stories of how these innocent people went from everyday life to suddenly ending up in prison are amazing and hard to put down. If you enjoy true crime novels, or legal thrillers, you will enjoy this. Note: I received an eARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

With the recent interest in wrongful convictions that certain TV shows have reignited, this book is timely and interesting for anyone who wants to know more about the history of the innocence project and how it came into being. This is an interesting book. It not only tells in detail how the team came together to help free innocent people, but it also describes the motives behind everything they did. The author did a lot for justice, but it wasn't an easy road for him or anyone else involved. I have a lot of respect for people who go out of their way to obtain justice and that's mostly what this book is about. If you are the type of person that enjoys legal history and true crime stories, then you will probably find this is just right for you. Overall, I thought this was a really good, very well organised and smartly written book that I am happy to recommend to others. This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher, provided through Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

This is a good book that shows various forms of injustice, how they were obtained and the effect it had on the person wrongly convicted as well as how the wrong was righted. This book looks at justice from various viewpoints, and at times the unsavory way "justice" was served. It even speaks on cases that "The Court of Last Resort" could not help. The chapter breakdown is great. This book is very interesting and you can find yourself becoming engrossed in it. This book is well written and will stay with you after you have finished reading it. Outstanding book!!! Thanks to NetGalley, the author and the publisher for the advanced reading copy in return for my honest opinion.

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