



## Bret Richmond Williams

December 14, 1967 - January 24, 2022

The youngest of nine children, Bret was born and raised in North Memphis, Tennessee by his mother Addie Williams. Since childhood, Bret lived with intention and urgency and had an exact plan for what he wanted to be in the world. Despite any obstacles he faced, he was neither distracted nor deterred from his goals. His mother told him to ask for and go after what he wanted.

Bret was a standout in his community from a young age. Everyone who knew Bret, knew there was something special about him. He was an honors student at Central High School in Memphis, where his mock trial team achieved the distinction of winning the statewide high school competition. From Central High, Bret went on to attend Harvard College where he majored in Government. While at Harvard, Bret nurtured his passion for photography and devoted time to community service programs in Roxbury, Massachusetts through his involvement with the student-led non-profit organization Phillips Brooks House.

Bret graduated from Harvard College and received his law degree from Stanford Law School. At the time of his death, Bret was an attorney in private practice representing corporate and individual clients in all stages of state and federal criminal investigations, trials, and appeals. In addition to his white-collar criminal law practice, Bret represented indigent defendants through his appointments to the Criminal Justice Act panels for the United States District

Courts in the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia. Bret's impressive and exemplary legal career spanned three decades. During this time, he served for over 16 years as a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Offices for the Northern District of Georgia and the Southern District of New York, and also held attorney positions at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency. As an Assistant United States Attorney and throughout his career, Bret won the respect of colleagues, judges, and opposing counsel for his intelligence and collegiality, his tireless work ethic, his unwavering moral compass, and his unflappable demeanor in even the most complex jury trials.

Bret had a gift for befriending people. Conversations with Bret came easily, and he could talk to anyone on almost any topic. Bret's many close life-long friendships transcended differences and are a testament to the fact that he found people he was simpatico with, and he kept them. Bret encouraged others throughout his lifetime to broaden their perspectives and to think critically instead of accepting the status quo. He was also a prolific writer whose articles and op-ed pieces were featured in various publications on important topics – including election laws and voter fraud, Georgia's Open Carry law, and his opinions on the concept of essential Americanism as a *Weltanschauung*. After starting his private law practice, Bret was frequently called upon by national and local media outlets to opine on high-profile criminal cases and legal matters.

Bret was simultaneously known as the smartest guy in the room and the most humble, and was loved by his family, friends, and colleagues for his generosity, kindness, authenticity, honesty, and sense of humor. Most importantly, Bret was a family man. He was a devoted husband to Stephanie, his wife of 18 years, and a loving and fiercely protective father to their sons Grady and Dexter.

Bret was pre-deceased by his siblings Albert, Alaine, Alden and Adam. In addition to his wife and children, Bret is survived by his mother Addie Williams and his siblings Alisa, Alston, Allan and Alex. He also leaves to mourn a host of relatives, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched.

Memorial donations in Bret's name can be made to Erlanger Foundation either by using the link: [www.erlanger.org/give](http://www.erlanger.org/give) or by mail to: Erlanger Foundation, 975 East 3rd Street, B-508, Chattanooga, TN 37403. Kindly place a note in the comment section to direct the gift to the renal transplant or kidney transplant program.

# Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Bret Richmond Williams



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - February 02, 2022  
at 05:10 PM

AS

*I am the older sister to Brett Williams. I watched him from the time he was born until he matured into an adult. He was always a wonderful and caring child who loved his family. He was always actively trying to do better be better and help others.*

*This comment tears in my heart because for selfish reasons by the wife and her family, we were not notified of his illness. We were only notified of his death. This is most likely a reason you did not see family members at his service.*

*I know that Brett would've embraced and one of us all there to offer messages of love and caring that we all felt. The sadness that comes with his passing is monumental. Not being notified, not just me but his mother of his illness, death, and funeral service is something that did not break us, but made us stronger. The malicious, awful and vindictive actions of the wife and her family are forgiven. We have to forgive you in order to move on. Stephanie, we forgive you. As his sons grow older, I hope and pray that they learn things about their father and his family. Wicked people populate this earth.*

*My mother, the woman who gave birth to this man, was not allowed to attend his funeral. She was not notified of his illness and subsequent death. Death does not defeat our family. We all look forward to seeing him again. In Jesus name I pray for you.*

Alisa Streete - June 21, 2025 at 09:34 PM

AS

*We are strong family! We are now a forgiving family! Stephanie, we forgive you.*

---

**Alisa Streete** - June 21, 2025 at 09:36 PM

RL

“ *To Bret's family - I am so terribly sorry about Bret's passing. I just learned of this last night. He and I were colleagues and friends at the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York. We walked home to Brooklyn together across the bridge on September 11 as the towers were falling and the the big dust cloud rose up. He was a steady, calming presence then, and I will always feel gratitude for the privilege of spending such a traumatic moment with him. Bret was also an extraordinarily nice person, supportive colleague, thoughtful and perceptive (I love that he carried a camera and always tried to capture photos of the world around him), and an exceptionally smart guy. What a terrible loss for all of you. You will be in my thoughts. Kind Regards, Robin Linsenmayer*

---

**Robin Linsenmayer** - July 14, 2022 at 04:22 PM

ED

“ *Dear Williams Family— I just learned of Bret's passing and wanted to offer my belated condolences. Bret was a great friend to me during law school and after we both moved to DC after graduation. We lost touch briefly after we both moved away from DC, but I had the great honor of celebrating Bret and Stephanie's marriage with them in NY, and then shared their joy (through Christmas card photos) as they welcomed Grady and Dexter into the world. May Bret's memory always be a blessing to all of you, and may Grady and Dexter always know what a remarkable man their father was, and how much he loved them! He has left this world far too soon. I will miss him!*

---

**Emily Dentzer** - July 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM

AW

“ All the words we may speak cannot encapsulate the fullness of whom Bret is. Therein lies my recognition of the wonderfulness of my baby brother, my siblings who have transitioned, and truly those of us still on this plane. We are all an aspect, a perspective, of “GOD”. We are all stars, absorbing and radiating in our own way, touching the lives of others in many ways and leaving the mark we choose. The beauty of Bret ... he always chose to BE, with a sense of “great is this that is in me” and “its the embracing of it which is LIFE itself”. GODspeed L’il Engine!!

-----  
**Alex Williams** - February 05, 2022 at 03:18 PM

AW

*Might I add ... I am nothing less than blessed to have listened to those of you who loved him! The star keeps beaming!!*

-----  
**Alex Williams** - February 05, 2022 at 03:39 PM

PZ

*I will miss him greatly. He was an amazing lawyer and had such a fresh perspective. I am stunned and saddened by his passing. God speed Bret Williams.*

-----  
**Paul Zwier** - February 11, 2022 at 04:16 PM

KJ

*Bret was a wonderful friend and devoted family man. I will so miss his wise counsel and kindness and laughter. Praying for Stephanie and their sweet boys.*

-----  
**Karen Jordan** - March 02, 2022 at 02:15 PM

NC

“ Praying for God to comfort and strengthen the Williams family during this time. 🙏🙏💖 Love you Stephanie!!! 💖💖 ~Nita Conley~

-----  
**Nita Conley** - February 05, 2022 at 03:11 PM

ME

“ To Stephanie, Grady and Dexter - Evan and I continue to pray for you and your family. We are heartbroken and saddened by the loss such an incredible man, father and husband. I will miss conversations with Bret. I will miss his infectious smile and wit. His advice in general and care towards Evan. Please let me know if there is anything we can do for you.

---

**Meredith Evans** - February 05, 2022 at 02:45 PM

RM

“ Our prayers and meditations enfold you, Stephanie, your sons and your entire family as you celebrate the extraordinary life of your beloved Bret. We knew him as a fine man, wonderful husband, loving father and family man and brilliant attorney and community servant. You and your sons are his great legacy and we are grateful for you all. We are here for you.

*With much Love, Comfort and Strength,  
Rhonda Joy and Bill Craig*

---

**Rhonda Joy McLean** - February 05, 2022 at 01:19 PM

JL

“ Dear Stephanie, Grady, and Dexter: You are so loved. Your dad's energy, brilliance, determination, and care is his legacy in you. I am praying your names. - Jill

---

**Jill Morehouse Lum** - February 04, 2022 at 10:49 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**Mary Nix Hollowell** - February 04, 2022 at 08:47 PM

JL

*Grateful to see this.*

---

**Jill Morehouse Lum** - February 04, 2022 at 10:47 PM

PK

“ *Brett was an outstanding attorney, and better yet, and outstanding man. Our community is less than before because he is no longer with us. My sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.*

*Paul Kish*

---

**Paul Kish** - February 04, 2022 at 11:21 AM

DM

“ *So sad to hear about Bret's passing. I've had cases in the Northern District of Georgia with Bret. What an amazing attorney, always fighting for his clients, always helpful to colleagues, like me. He accomplished so much. I will miss seeing him. I wish his family well. David D. Marshall*

---

**David Marshall** - February 04, 2022 at 10:42 AM

JH

“Bret was such a great friend and colleague. I loved his colorful trial reports during Criminal Section meetings when we served as AUSAs together in the Northern District of Georgia. He loved his family with all of his heart and talked about them all of the time. I am sending loving thoughts and prayers to all those who held Bret dear. Gone too soon.

---

**Jamila Hall** - February 04, 2022 at 10:37 AM

TS

“On behalf of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, I would like to express our profound sorrow at the passing of Bret. He was an outstanding lawyer who adhered to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism, and it was always a pleasure to see him in the courtroom. He left us too soon, and we will not forget him.

--Timothy C. Batten, Sr.  
Chief United States District Judge

---

**Timothy C. Batten, Sr.** - February 03, 2022 at 10:43 AM

VW

“V Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Bret  
Richmond Williams



---

**V wilson** - February 03, 2022 at 09:57 AM

BP

“ *Please accept my condolences and best wishes at this time. I knew Bret at Stanford, where I admired his demeanor and intellect. He was a very strong person.*

*Bob Pierce*

---

**Bob Pierce** - February 03, 2022 at 09:52 AM