



PRESS BIO

Edward Williams is a writer, scholar, and civil rights advocate whose work draws from the moral traditions of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Maya Angelou. A Howard University and Georgetown Law-educated attorney, he writes and speaks on democracy, identity, and justice.

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Few Americans have seen the fault lines of democracy from as many vantage points as Edward Williams—classroom teacher, Senate staffer, judicial law clerk, law professor, civil rights advocate, and queer son of the Black South. As a writer and scholar whose work draws from the moral traditions of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Maya Angelou, Edward has emerged as a leading voice on race, queer identity, democracy, and justice. A Howard University graduate and Georgetown Law-educated attorney, his legal work has taken him from defending Wisconsin's 2020 election results, to protecting transgender students, to defending the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's right to give scholarships to Hispanic students. As an educator, he trained the next generation of civil rights lawyers as the former Co-Director of the Howard Law Civil Rights Clinic and taught students how to think about democratic renewal through his Law and Politics course at the University of Southern California. Through his writing and speaking, Edward invites readers into the dinner-table conversations—on community, identity, faith, and democratic renewal—that have shaped his life.

SPEAKING TOPICS

“We're Not Stuck: Reimagining Democratic Possibility”

FOR UNIVERSITIES & LECTURE SERIES, CIVIC AND DEMOCRACY-FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONS, BAR ASSOCIATIONS, LITERARY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AUDIENCES

Dismantles the assumption that American democratic institutions are fixed, and invites audiences to imagine what comes next.

“Durable Diversity Beyond Programs”

FOR CORPORATE LEADERSHIP, CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICERS, PEOPLE/HR EXECUTIVES, IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Makes the case for trust-based networks over top-down DEI programs, and reframes how companies measure real inclusion.