

**BRIAN ROBERTS, Washington, D.C.  
Father of Mark Williams, murdered in  
Washington, D.C. in 2001**

Brian Roberts's 18-year-old son, Mark Williams, was killed during a drive-by shooting in Washington, DC on Christmas night, 2001. As yet, no one has been arrested for the murder.

A criminal defense attorney with over a decade of experience in capital litigation in Texas, New York, and Washington, D.C., Roberts witnessed the execution of one of his clients. He has served as the interim Executive Director and the state legislative liaison of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and now works as the coordinator of the Institutional Services Program for the D.C. Public Defender's office. In 2004, he served as the U.S. Representative to the first conference on the death penalty in Africa.

"I knew that the death penalty wasn't going to bring Mark back. I also knew it was more than likely that he was killed by another young black man, and I thought to myself, do we really need *two* young men from our community killed? Instead, Mark's murder made me redouble my efforts on behalf of our youth."

**Links to more information:**

<http://www.biicl.org/index.asp?contentid=555>

<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/projects/sanpablo/stories/000321.html>



*Brian Roberts*

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