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**DALLAS · OCTOBER 1, 2026 · STATEMENT**

# Statement from Civil Rights Attorney Lee Merritt on the Parole of Amber Guyger

**DALLAS, TX (October 1, 2026):** We are deeply disappointed by the decision to grant parole to Amber Guyger, the former Dallas police officer convicted of murdering Botham Jean.

Botham Jean was in his own home, eating ice cream, when his life was taken. He did nothing wrong. He was a son, a brother, a friend, and a man of faith who served his church and his community. He should still be here.

Botham's family and the community strongly opposed this parole. They stood up again and again to ask that the full sentence be served. A 10-year sentence was already a fraction of what was lost. Releasing Ms. Guyger after seven years makes that loss feel even smaller in the eyes of the system. It is not.

The family still lives with this loss every day. Botham does not get to come home. His family does not get the years they should have had with him. No parole decision can return what was taken from them.

Justice cannot be selective. When a life is taken without cause, accountability has to mean something, for everyone. Today's decision tells grieving families that it can be cut short.

We stand with the Jean family. We will keep saying Botham's name, and we will keep working for a justice system that values every life it is asked to protect.

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## **ABOUT S. LEE MERRITT**

S. Lee Merritt is a Dallas-based federal civil rights trial attorney. He represented the family of Botham Jean in the 2019 murder conviction of former Dallas officer Amber Guyger, the first Dallas officer convicted of murder in 46 years. His federal civil rights practice is nationwide, and he is licensed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Learn more at [leemerrittesq.com](http://leemerrittesq.com).