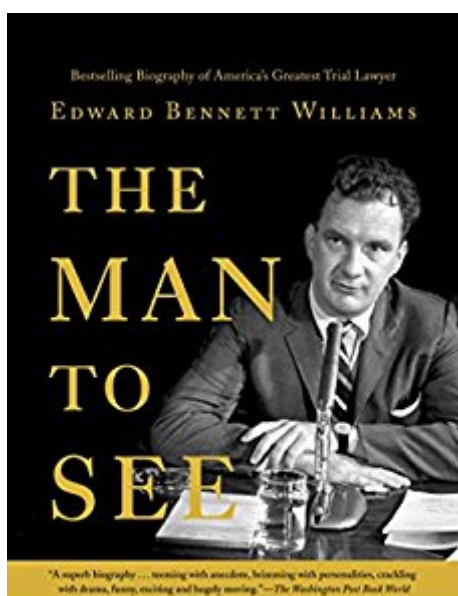


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The Man To See



Evan Thomas

Author of John Paul Jones



Synopsis

This bestselling biography of legendary trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams is "a skillful and lively portrait of a larger-than-life lawyer" (Kirkus Reviews). Legendary attorney Edward Bennet Williams was arguably the best trial lawyer ever to practice. Now, for the first time, bestselling author Evan Thomas takes us into the courtrooms of Williams's greatest performances as he defends "Godfather" Frank Costello, Jimmy Hoffa, Frank Sinatra, The Washington Post, and others, as well as behind the scenes where the witnesses are coached, the traps set, and the deals cut. In addition to being a lawyer of unprecedented influence, Williams was also an important Washington insider, privy to the secrets of America's most powerful men. Thomas tells the truth behind the stories that made Williams one of the most talked about public figures of his time, including Williams's role in the publication of the Pentagon Papers and the possibility that Williams may have been Watergate's Deep Throat. Based on Thomas's exclusive access to Williams's papers, *The Man to See* is an unprecedented look at the strategies and influence of this exceptional man.

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Customer Reviews

Edward Bennett Williams (1920-1988) was among the last of the old-time trial lawyers who would

handle almost any kind of case. A product of Holy Cross College and Georgetown Law School, the Connecticut native is best known for representing high-profile clients: for example, Senator Joseph McCarthy, Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa, underworld kingpin Frank Costello, billionaire Armand Hammer, and the Washington Post's owner Katherine Graham and editor Ben Bradlee, just to name a few. Williams also achieved high-profile status by ownership of the Washington Redskins football team, the Baltimore Orioles baseball team and the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C. The book recounts Williams' practice of law in the District of Columbia. He started as an associate with the well-respected firm of Hogan & Hartson, but soon joined with a friend Paul Connolly to form the firm of Williams & Connolly. In a generally chronological fashion, the book traces Williams evolving practice of law, often giving capsule summaries of the major cases that he handled. Criminal cases often involved constitutional issues under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments. In addition to trial work, there were arguments to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Pentagon Papers case raised issues involving freedom of the press under the First Amendment. The special investigation in the wake of Watergate brought representations that required negotiations with the federal prosecutors. All the while, Williams' ownership of the Redskins football club put him in a popular position with judges and government officials in the District of Columbia. It is a well written and highly readable work.

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