



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Black Americans - We Did Better, but Still Have a Way to Go
with Passing on Our Wealth***

BOSTON - Feb. 20, 2024 - Two years ago, I wrote an op-ed calling on Black Americans to create their estate plans, documents like their will or a living trust. The fantastic news: a recent study by Caring.com came out showing that almost 20% more black Americans had done their will than three years ago. I won't take credit, but will say, "great job!" That is a fantastic increase, but like usual, we aren't done yet. The study shows we are on about par with how many white households are doing estate planning, but as hard as we worked to get it, we need to do better to protect our wealth and our next generation's future.

Don't let our wishes be lost. More of us need to wills and trusts as an estate plan gives us a voice even when we can't speak for ourselves. And, for those of us with estate plans now, we need to keep them current and updated to make sure they are evergreen. With estate planning we choose our advocates, provide them with instructions to follow, and have them honor our choices. We need to take control and ensure our medical care, finances, and even who cares for us are all handled by the people we trust most, not by those the courts assign.

Estate planning is now something for everyone as it is affordable and easily accessible. Online options exist, making estate planning just a few clicks away. Estate planning is a legal specialty so going to reputable places that specialize in this area of law can be especially important. Gentreo, www.gentreo.com, the company for which I am advisor, specializes in estate planning and works to follow each state's laws as they change.

Not only do state laws change, but your life changes. From new babies and grandchildren to marriages and divorces to moving to new states, life inflection points require us to routinely update our documents. If you want changes made, another benefit of online estate planning is that many companies let you make changes as often as you need to, without charging extra fees.

Don't let yours be one of the families we read about that lose their homes to long lost relatives who appear out of nowhere. Don't let yours be one the families that spends years in court trying to prove property is yours/theirs. Don't let yours be one of the families that has to ask the court for permission to see a dying relative.

We've made great progress in just three years in getting more Black Americans to do their estate planning. Now is not the time to stop. We must continue to plan for ourselves and for our next generations. Wealth is something many aspire to, and we need to take the steps that are now given to us to build and protect that wealth.

Here is my call to action: let's educate and create. Learn, read, watch videos and do. Let's protect our choices and our legacies, #SecureOurLegacy.

About Brickson Diamond:

Brickson Diamond is a consultant with expertise in diversity, equity & inclusion at Spencer Stuart, one of the world's leading global executive search and leadership consulting firms. Brickson is a former operating executive in the financial services industry, with a track record of identifying and developing diverse business leaders with a long-tenured former career in financial services. He founded and led Big Answers, LLC, which supported clients by combining diversity, equity and inclusion innovations with strategic focus. Additionally, Brickson is a Co-Founder and Board Chair of The Blackhouse Foundation, where he applies his expertise in strategy development, partner cultivation, program development, and other key areas. Brickson has a BA in Organizational Behavior and Management from Brown University, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

About Gentreo:

Gentreo is a leading provider of innovative estate planning solutions, offering a user-friendly tools that simplify the process for individuals and families. With a commitment to accessibility and comprehensive planning, Gentreo empowers users to create, share and manage their estate plans efficiently. For more information, visit www.gentreo.com, or connect with Gentreo on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).