



Matletha Bennette serves as Senior Staff Attorney in the Southern Poverty Law Center's Voting Rights Program. Born in the small agricultural community of South Bay, Florida, Matletha was a first-generation college graduate from the University of Florida, obtaining Bachelor's Degrees in Political Science and English.

After being inspired to become a public interest attorney, she moved to Tallahassee and concurrently earned her Master's in Public Administration and Juris Doctor in Law from the Florida State University. During her law school tenure, her passion for civil rights advocacy was evidenced by regional and national titles in moot court and mock trial competitions, her service as a research assistant for her Voting Rights professor, academic and community service civil rights accolades, and her position as the Black Law Students Association's Social Justice Chair. Shortly after graduation, she worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel, representing indigent capital clients in their post-conviction appeals.

Most recently, she has served as legal and legislative advisor to the Florida Senate Democratic Office, providing analysis and input on elections laws, as well as criminal and civil justice policies. She has

worked with community organizations, national experts, and political figures on a variety of legislation, including the implementing bill for Florida's Amendment 4, which hinged the right to vote on the payment of financial obligations, and the recent elections laws that dilute and disenfranchise the vote of thousands of Floridians. Matletha currently serves on the Executive Boards of Street Beat, Inc. Performing Arts Center and Notable Impressions, Inc., and is active within the Innovative Community Engagement (ICE) Foundation, all non-profit organizations dedicated to uplifting, educating and empowering the communities in which they sit.