

Judith Browne-Dianis has an extensive background in civil rights litigation and advocacy in the areas of voting, education, housing, and employment. Browne-Dianis has worked tirelessly to protect survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Browne-Dianis filed critical litigation to protect the rights of displaced survivors, stopping mass evictions from rental units and the bulldozing of homes without notice to the families impacted. She then led the charge to stop the demolition of habitable public housing in New Orleans by filing litigation, and worked with Congress to ensure the right to return for these families. Her efforts to stop the exploitation of immigrant reconstruction workers in the Gulf Coast, led to the establishment of the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice.

Under Browne-Dianis' leadership, Advancement Project has been dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline in school districts throughout the country since 1999. Browne-Dianis has authored groundbreaking reports on the issue including: *Derailed: The Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track*, detailing the unnecessary criminalization of students by their schools. Working closely with grassroots organizations, including the NAACP, Advancement Project's work has significantly decreased student arrests in Denver, Chicago and Florida. Browne-Dianis' commitment to racial equity in public schools carries over to her positions on the Board of FairTest, and she is a founding Convener of the Forum for Education and Democracy.

Browne-Dianis' efforts to protect voters of color span years of dedication. In 1996, she filed pioneering litigation against the State Maryland for failure to enforce the "Motor Voter" law in public assistance and motor vehicle agencies. After the 2000 election debate, she served as counsel on behalf of the NAACP and disenfranchised African-American voters in Florida. Her voter protection efforts continued in 2004, when Browne-Dianis worked to prohibit the use of the erroneous Florida felon purge list, and served as counsel in *DNC v. RNC*, which stopped the RNC from challenging voters of color based upon an illegal voter caging program. Most recently, Browne-Dianis represented the Virginia NAACP in litigation against the Commonwealth of Virginia and several jurisdictions for racial disparities in the allocation of voting machines.

She is a recipient of the distinguished Skadden Fellowship and joined Advancement Project at its inception in 1999, after serving as the Managing Attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of the

NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. Browne-Dianis is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, served as a Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar at Florida State University Law School and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Browne-Dianis sits on the board of the 21st Century Foundation and was named one of the “Thirty Women to Watch” by *Essence Magazine*.