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TRAILBLAZERS

SOUTH

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What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

I have been interested in voting rights and election law since even before law school. At the time, I was working on a local electoral campaign that ended in a disputed election and I realized how much the rules matter in our democratic system. In going to law school and then starting out on my career path, I knew that I wanted to help protect the right to vote and combat attempts at voter suppression that often impact marginalized communities. I have been fortunate to have found at Jenner & Block a values-driven law firm that supports that goal. I have been able to build a unique practice that combines both public and private interests, including arguing before the US Supreme Court in support of protecting minority rights under the Voting Rights Act.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept? What bearing will this have on the future?

I have been able to combine my roles as co-chair of Jenner & Block's Appellate and Supreme Court Practice and chair of our Election Law and Redistricting Practice to litigate voting rights and election disputes at the highest levels. Over the years, I have represented elected officials, election administrators, and voters in disputes involving redistricting, voting rights, and campaign finance around the country and often in the Supreme Court. But the public/private aspects of my practice also extend beyond voting rights. Helping private companies with a public-facing mission is also an important part of what I do. For example, we recently won an important litigation victory for our client Amtrak in its mission to provide passenger rail service to help connect people and economies.