COLETTE PICHON BATTLE, ESQ.

Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy

2015 Climate Fellow

BIG BOLD IDEA

Promote equity in Gulf Coast communities of color most affected by climate change by providing community stabilizing legal services and ecological equity training and support for civic participation.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (GCCLP) is a nonprofit public interest law firm and justice center with a mission to build, serve, and advocate for structural shifts that promote equity for Gulf Coast communities on the frontlines of climate change. Through human rights-based legal services, community training, local leadership development, and grassroots advocacy, GCCLP works to create structural balance in policies and practices that produce disparate impacts on communities of color. GCCLP contributes a southern perspective on issues that have national impact and global influence.

PERSONAL BIO

Colette Pichon Battle is the founder and executive director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy and develops programming focused on equitable disaster recovery, global migration, community economic development, climate justice, and energy democracy. Colette works with local communities, philanthropists, and elected officials in the post-Katrina/post-BP disaster recovery and was a lead coordinator for Gulf South Rising 2015, a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South. In addition to developing advocacy initiatives that intersect with race, systems of power, and ecology, Colette manages GCCLP’s legal services in immigration law and disaster law. In 2019, Colette was named an Obama Fellow for her work with Black and Native communities on the front line of climate change. In 2018 Colette was awarded with an honorary doctorate from Kenyon College; in 2016 she was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity; and in 2015 she was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow. The Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy co-chairs the national Water Equity and Climate Resilient Caucus with PolicyLink and anchors the five-state, multi-issue initiative Gulf South for a Green New Deal.