

## **Rhonda Cunningham Holmes**

Rhonda Cunningham Holmes is the Executive Director of Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE), an affiliate of AARP. She leads a team of nearly 70, including attorneys, long-term care ombudsman specialists, social workers and support staff in providing direct legal and social work services to DC seniors and advocacy for residents of long-term care facilities.

Ms. Holmes joined LCE in 2018. Under her leadership, LCE has expanded its services, especially for veterans and for tenant advocacy and support; placed increased emphasis on advocacy; and has introduced a Racial Equity Initiative to better enable staff to address the client community, largely people of color, with cultural awareness and humility.

In March 2022, Ms. Holmes was elected to serve on the board of Directors of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery Parks Foundation and on the Board of Directors of DC Refers, an online service that facilitates quality legal representation at affordable rates. Ms. Holmes has been a member of the Fordham Law Advisory Council since its inception in 2018 and is an advisory board member and past chair of the board of directors of Montgomery Housing Partnership, a non-profit developer of affordable housing and wrap-around services.

Prior to joining LCE, Ms. Holmes was the deputy director of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, a nonprofit law firm providing pro bono legal representation, advocacy, and educational programs that address civil rights violations, discrimination, and poverty issues. She was also a litigator at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP where her practice focused on intellectual property, insurance and complex commercial litigation cases in federal and state courts. Despite her private practice caseload, she always found time to work on pro bono matters.

Ms. Holmes holds a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law; an MBA from the University of Rochester Simon School of Business, and an A.B. from Duke University. She is the 2021 recipient of the Honorable Deborah A. Batts Life of Commitment Award from the Feerick Center for Social Justice at Fordham University School of Law.