




ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

## Jerry L. Demings

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December 18, 2023

TO: Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1  
Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2  
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3  
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4  
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, District 5  
Commissioner Michael "Mike" Scott, District 6

FROM: Mayor Jerry L. Demings 

SUBJECT: **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – January 9, 2024**  
Deputy County Attorney, County Attorney's Office Managerial Appointment

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Georgiana Holmes as the Deputy County Attorney for the County Attorney's Office. The Deputy County Attorney acts as a surrogate to the County Attorney, serves as legal counsel in any lawsuit, appellate proceeding, or administrative appeal, and performs administrative functions in the County Attorney's Office.

Ms. Holmes began her legal career as an Assistant General Counsel in the Enforcement Litigation Section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. She served as Lead Attorney for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Enforcement Group, drafting, issuing/denying, and enforcing permits for the federally approved permitting program on hazardous waste facilities. Previous to her legal career, she worked as a Program Assistant for the Florida Environmental Equity and Justice Commission.

Ms. Holmes, who has been employed in the County Attorney's Office since May 2012, serves as an Attorney IV responsible for reviewing or drafting legal documents related to environmental and lakeshore protection, utilities, and land development. She regularly assists the Environmental Protection Division, Public Works, and Utilities staff with approval conditions for land use, comprehensive plans, litigation agreements, conservation area impact permits, leases, easements, and deeds.

Ms. Holmes's appointment will be effective January 21, 2024, at an annual salary of \$210,017.60. Her resume is attached for your reference.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Georgiana Holmes as Deputy County Attorney, County Attorney's Office**

Attachment

c: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator  
Jeffrey J. Newton, County Attorney  
Dr. Yvette M. Best, EdD, CCP, SPHR/SHRM-SCP, Human Resources Director

# GEORGIANA HOLMES, ESQ.

201 S. Rosalind Ave., 3rd Floor ❖ Orlando, FL 32801 ❖ (407) 836-7320 ❖ [georgiana.holmes@ocfl.net](mailto:georgiana.holmes@ocfl.net)

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A demonstrated understanding of governmental legal practice and protective land use and environmental policy development.

### **Areas of Proficiency Include:**

- ❖ Well-organized with excellent written and verbal communication abilities
- ❖ Strong team leader and group motivator
- ❖ Equally effective working as a member of a team or on self-directed projects
- ❖ Proficient in time and resource management approaches
- ❖ Effective utilizing a common-sense approach or a strategy to problem solving
- ❖ Strong interpersonal skills assist in motivating and navigating difficult situations and people

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Orange County Government**, May 2012 — Present

**County Attorney's Office, Land Use Section**

**Assistant County Attorney (Currently Attorney IV)**

- General duties include preparing legal documents involving analysis, legal research, and application of developed legal expertise and knowledge of County practices, policy objectives and Code. Draft ordinances, resolutions and administrative regulations. Provide legal counsel to County Commissioners, County Administration and Division level staff through briefings, legal memoranda and participation in meetings.
- Routine attendance at Board of County Commission meetings, County and State regulatory agency meetings, County Advisory Boards or Task Forces, and stakeholder meetings to provide legal advice and assistance.
- Provide routine legal support to ensure Division and Department compliance with Florida public records laws and Open-Government requirements.

### ***Significant Responsibilities as Assistant County Attorney Include:***

- ❖ Review or drafting legal documents for Divisions related to environmental and lakeshore protection, utilities, and land development. This includes but is not limited to: developer's agreements; approval conditions for land use and comprehensive plans; mitigation agreements; conservation area impact permits; financial instruments associated with development permits; leases, easements and deeds; grant award agreements, and Interlocal/Interagency agreements.
- ❖ Maintain up-to-date working legal knowledge of Orange County Code (i.e., Environmental Control, Lakeshore Protection, Stormwater Management, Water and Wastewater and County Comprehensive Plan policies) and its relevant interplay with current state law, rulemaking and home rule authority.
- ❖ Assist Environmental Protection Division, Public Works and Utilities staff with: briefings of elected or appointed County Officials; technical meetings with regulated parties; public hearings before the Board of County Commissioners; handling constituent complaints; and regular interaction with various state and federal

regulatory agencies (i.e., Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency and Water Management Districts).

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**, December 2001 — April 2012

**Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Litigation Section/Waste and Air Section**

**Assistant General Counsel** (December 2001 – June 2005)

**Senior Assistant General Counsel** (June 2005 – April 2012)

**Lead Attorney for Hazardous Waste Enforcement Group** (June 2005 – September 2009)

**Lead Attorney for Solid and Haz. Waste Enforcement Group** (September 2009 – July 2010)

**Program Attorney, Division of Waste Management, Haz. Waste Sec.** (July 2010 – April 2012)

- Lead Attorney roles included supervising hazardous waste enforcement attorneys and mentoring new attorneys to the Enforcement Litigation Section.
- Day-to-day responsibilities as Program Attorney included assisting the Hazardous Waste Regulation Section administer and implement the permitting, corrective action, compliance and enforcement programs.
- Program Attorney was responsible for advising and handling all legal issues related to developing, drafting, issuing/denying, defending (if challenged) and enforcing permits for the federally-approved permitting program for hazardous waste facilities.
- Regularly participated in meetings involving citizens, business owners, elected officials, and various stakeholders and the Department to discuss legal interpretation, permitting decisions, compliance and enforcement topics, rulemaking, and policy development of Florida environmental laws and regulations.
- Represented and advised the Hazardous Waste Regulation Section on Department-wide matters that extend beyond the hazardous waste program (i.e., water, air, waste cleanup, state lands), to ensure the Section's policies are consistent with Department statewide directives and with other programs.
- Regular communication with various federal and state agencies and local and county governments to ensure coordinated approaches to permitting, corrective action, and enforcement policies.

***Significant Responsibilities as Program Attorney/Lead Enforcement Attorney Include:***

- ❖ Provided senior-level Department management legal advice, key considerations for strategies, and recommendations on program development.
- ❖ Provided training to Department personnel, county environmental departments, municipalities, and regulated parties on federal/state environmental legal decisions and regulations and Department policy relevant to solid and hazardous waste, and waste contamination cleanup.
- ❖ Maintained an up-to-date legal knowledge related to Florida civil practice, federal and state environmental regulations (including but not limited to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and Clean Water Act), and their relevant interplay with federal rulemaking, bankruptcy code provisions, real estate transaction requirements, probate or tax laws.
- ❖ Regularly represented the Department in court-ordered mediations or settlement conferences aimed at compelling corrective actions for violations and determining

potential opportunities for hazardous waste-reduction and more efficient handling or disposal practices.

- ❖ Developed and reviewed regulatory guidance documents, memorandum, ordinances, agreements with other agencies (federal, state and local), and Department administrative orders.
- ❖ Served as Environmental Justice Contact for Florida within EPA Region 4 Office of Special Programs, Office of the Regional Administrator.
- ❖ Significant Appellate Decisions: With both cases, served as Lead Attorney in defending favorable decisions to the Department on various constitutional, jurisdictional, and discretionary appellate arguments.
  - Enos Kerr and Custom Care Dry Cleaning v. Dept. of Environ. Prot., 3 So.3d 321 (Fla. App. 1 Dist., 2009), Per Curiam Affirmed.
  - Jung Bea Han v. Dept. of Environ. Prot., 23 So.3d 715 (Fla. App. 1 Dist., 2009), Per Curiam Affirmed, Florida Supreme Court review dismissed in 26 So.3d 582 (Fla. 2009).

**Florida Environmental Equity & Justice Commission, July 1995 — August 1997**

**Program Assistant**

Day-to-day responsibilities included working with the Executive Assistant to handle public and press relations, attend regular Commission meetings, public hearings and site visits to high profile or historically contaminated sites throughout Florida.

***Significant Responsibilities as Program Assistant Included:***

- ❖ Instrumental in the publication and presentation of the Commission's Final Report for submission to Governor Lawton Chiles and the 1997 Florida Legislative Session.
- ❖ Aided in creating the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice, within Florida A&M University's Environmental Sciences Institute.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/LEADERSHIP**

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**The Florida Bar, Admitted, June 2001**

City, County & Local Governmental Law Section, *Member*  
Environmental and Land Use Law Section (ELULS), *Member*

**Mayor Demings' Executive Leadership Program (MELP), Graduate, Spring 2021**

**Florida Association of County Attorneys, Member**

**Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, Member**

**EDUCATION**

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**Florida State University College of Law, April 2000**

JURIS DOCTORATE

**Florida A & M University, April 1995**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, Cum Laude, Psychology