



## **Valerie Ferguson, Regional Vice President of Operations**

With three decades of experience in the hospitality industry, Valerie Ferguson brings a wealth of expertise to the Loews Atlanta Hotel. Named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Travel by *Travel Agent* magazine and one of the Top 100 Women in Corporate America by *Ebony*, Ms. Ferguson continues to be a leader in hospitality and tourism across the country. Valerie Ferguson is a Past Chairman of the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AH&LA) where she spearheaded “Opportunity of a Lifetime”, a campaign organized to promote hospitality careers throughout the United States.

Valerie Ferguson joined the Loews Atlanta in the spring of 2010 as the Regional Vice President for the company’s first new-build hotel opening in ten years. This new position will mark a return to Atlanta for Ms. Ferguson who gained status as a city icon during her years in the market service as general manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta and general manager positions at Hyatt properties in Atlanta, Chicago and Flint, Michigan. Prior to joining the Loews Atlanta team, Ms. Ferguson served as the Regional Vice President & Managing Director in Philadelphia, beginning in 1998 to oversee the \$115 million conversion of the landmark PSFS Building into the luxury, convention-driven Loews Philadelphia Hotel. She was further charged with leading the property through its high-profile opening in the spring 2000.

Valerie Ferguson’s numerous awards and accolades are tribute to her dedication and passion for the hospitality industry. Some of her awards include:

- The National Women of the Year in 1993 from the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality.
- The Turner Broadcasting Trumpet Award saluting African American achievement in Business – 1994
- 1994 Academy of Women Achievers - YMCA Atlanta
- Named to the Atlanta Business League’s list of Top 100 Black Women of Influence in 1997
- The Drum Major for Justice Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Lodging Leader of the Year Award from the Georgia Hospitality and Trade Association in 1998
- The Above and Beyond Award from the Lodging Investment Conference in 2003
- The Jane Bisbee Award from The South Eastern Pennsylvania Red Cross in 2004
- 2007 Women’s of Achievements by the March of Dimes

- The “Take The Lead Award” by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and the “2008 Philadelphia Hospitality Industry – Good Scout Award” by the Cradle of Liberty, Boy Scouts of America in 2008
- 2009 BM&T Apex Award for Distinguished Service

Ms. Ferguson actively participates in numerous businesses, civic and educational endeavors. She travels throughout the country to key hospitality industry events as well as high schools and colleges to emphasize the importance of hospitality and tourism as vital components in the nation’s economy. In an effort to strengthen the industry, she urges fellow hoteliers to seek out young men and women who represent “the promise of a new generation” and to create diverse leadership programs reflective of today’s America.

A native of San Francisco, Ms. Ferguson received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from the University of San Francisco.

**Affiliations:**

American Hotel and Lodging Association  
Secretary – American Red Cross of Southeast Pennsylvania

**Board Memberships:**

Fox Chase Cancer Institute  
Historic Philadelphia Inc.  
Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Penn State School of Health & Human Services  
The Kimmel Center, Inc.  
Widener University Advisory Council – School of Hospitality