

## **MERC COMMISSION CHAIR SAMUEL R. BAGENSTOS**

In December 2019, Governor Whitmer appointed Samuel Bagenstos to serve as a Commissioner of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and designated him as the Commission's Chair. Bagenstos is the Frank G. Millard Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School, where he teaches courses in constitutional law, civil rights law, and labor and employment law. From 2009 to 2011, he was a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Bagenstos's work is widely published in law reviews and non-academic outlets. He is also an experienced advocate who has appeared before trial and appellate courts around the country, including the Michigan Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. He has argued four cases before the United States Supreme Court, including *Young v. United Parcel Service*, 135 S. Ct 1338 (2015), which established new protections for pregnant workers.

Bagenstos served as a law clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court and for Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the Ninth Circuit. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and the Harvard Law School.

Commissioner Bagenstos's appointment expires on June 30, 2022.

## **MERC COMMISSIONER ROBERT S. LABRANT**

Robert S. LaBrant of Perry, MI was appointed a member of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission on July 1, 2012 and was re-appointed on May 27, 2015, and again, on July 28, 2018.

Commissioner LaBrant previously was employed as Senior Vice President and General Counsel at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce before retiring in 2012. Post-retirement, LaBrant also served as Senior Counsel at the Sterling Corporation until 2017.

Before moving to Michigan in 1977, Commissioner LaBrant worked at the Appleton, WI Area Chamber of Commerce, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and the Business-Industry Political Action Committee. LaBrant was on the staff of Congressman Harold V. Froehlich of Wisconsin. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army with service in Viet Nam 1971-72.

Commissioner LaBrant holds a juris doctorate, cum laude, from Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. He completed his graduate certificate in public relations from the American University in Washington, DC, and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point, WI.

LaBrant has served as an adjunct faculty member at Lansing Community College and at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He was admitted to State Bar of Michigan in 1983.

Commissioner LaBrant's appointment is for a 3 year term, expiring on June 30, 2021.

## **MERC COMMISSIONER TINAMARIE PAPPAS**

TINAMARIE PAPPAS was appointed by Governor Whitmer as a member of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission effective August 24, 2020. Commissioner Pappas began her legal career as a trial attorney for Region 7 of the National Labor Relations Board where she worked from 1987 to 1995. She subsequently became a partner in the law firm of Rose, Weber, & Pappas. Since 1998, she has been the owner and principal of the Law Offices of Tinamarie Pappas

Commissioner Pappas has 33 years of experience in all aspects of labor law including legal proceedings before state and federal courts; unfair labor practice and representation case proceedings before the NLRB and MERC; arbitration hearings; and the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.

Commissioner Pappas earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan, and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School.

The 3 year term for Commissioner Pappas expires on June 30, 2023.