

On December 18, 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the appointment of Samuel Bagenstos to serve as Chairperson of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

Chairperson Bagenstos is the Frank G. Millard Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School. Prior to his time at U of M, Bagenstos was an assistant professor of law at Harvard Law School, professor of law and associate dean for research and faculty development at the Washington University School of Law, and a visiting professor of law at the UCLA School of Law. He has taught courses on civil rights litigation, constitutional litigation, disability rights law, employment law and discrimination, labor law, and workplace law and policy advocacy.

Mr. Bagenstos is a former Deputy Assistant Attorney General with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice where he supervised the division's appellate, disability rights, and special litigation sections. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of North Carolina. He is appointed as a Democrat for a term commencing December 18, 2019 and expiring June 20, 2022. He succeeds Natalie Yaw whose term expired June 30, 2019. The Governor has designated Mr. Bagenstos to serve as Chairperson of the Commission.

The Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) resolves labor disputes involving public and private sector employees by appointing mediators, arbitrators and fact finders, conducting union representation elections, determining appropriate bargaining units, and adjudicating unfair labor practice cases. The Commission, supported by the staff of the Bureau of Employment Relations, administers The Public Employment Relations Act (PERA), The Labor Relations and Mediation Act (LMA), and The Compulsory Arbitration Act (312).

This appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.