

Bureau of Employment Relations
MERC PANEL MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

Smith, Barry
Lawyer

Business: McCarthy Smith Law Group
550 W. Center Ave
Portage, MI 49024
269-488-6330
FAX: 269-488-6333

Experience:

Attorney and Mediator. Full-time practice in employment and labor law since 1974. My practice included extensive collective bargaining and grievance arbitration litigation, administrative and litigation practice before both NLRB and MERC and general labor contract administration. My practice in the public sector focused on school district, county government and health care employers. My practice in the private sector focused on hospitals, manufacturing and construction industry employers. My representation of individual employees was a significant portion of my practice, where I pursued matters involving civil rights, discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, employment contracts and non-competition/trade secret issues. I also acted as a neutral facilitative mediator for both the State and Federal Courts.

Education:

J.D. cum laude, The University of Michigan, 1973
B.A. in economics, Kalamazoo College, 1970

Advocacy:

Prior to September 2007, full-time advocate for both employers and employees in workplace matters. I left full time practice at that time for an executive position with an aerospace company, while still acting as a facilitative mediator. In September 2009 I returned to practice as a mediator, arbitrator and fact finder.

Professional Organizations:

State Bar of Michigan (and Labor Law, ADR and Aviation sections)
American Bar Association (and Employment Law and ADR sections)
Inactive but admitted to practice in Illinois and California
Approved Facilitative Mediator for several Michigan Circuit Courts and for the U.S District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Charges:

PER DIEM: \$600.00 per day
CANCELLATION: One day per diem if cancelled within one week of hearing.
OTHER: Mileage and out of pocket expenses.