

**Bureau of Employment Relations**  
**MERC PANEL MEMBER BIOGRAPHY**

Opperwall, Kathleen R.  
Attorney and Arbitrator

**Business:** P. O. Box 1308  
Okemos, MI 48805-1308  
517-347-7814  
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**Experience:**

Self-employed as an arbitrator and attorney since 2004. Attorney with East Lansing Law Firm MacLean, Seaman, Laing & Opperwall and predecessor firms from 1978 to 2004, in a general civil practice, with emphasis on employee benefits. Have served as a labor arbitrator since 1980, and as a MERC Fact Finder and Act 312 Arbitrator since 1981. Also served as a designated hearing officer for the Michigan Department of Public Health. Previously represented Michigan Dept. of Civil Service, primarily in unit determination matters. Summer law clerk at Keller, Thoma, Toppin & Schwarze, 1996.

**Education:**

J.D. University of Michigan, 1977; B.A. University of Chicago, 1972. M.P.H. University of Michigan, 1989.

**Advocacy:**

None.

**Professional Organizations:**

Member, Labor Law Section, State Bar of Michigan; Member, Industrial Relations Research Association; Participant, Arbitrator Training Program of AAA/YLS/FMCS

**Charges:**

PER DIEM: \$800.00

CANCEL: Per diem due for cancellations and adjournments of less than 30 day's notice.

OTHER: Participant, Arbitrator Training Program AAA/YLS/FMCS