



BULLETIN

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Governor Newsom has appointed Katrina S. Hagen as the Director of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) which oversees a number of regulatory agencies related to workers' compensation including the Division of Workers' Compensation; the Office of Self-Insurance Plans; the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA); and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Ms. Hagen's appointment, announced Friday, fills a position that has stood vacant since former DIR Director Christine Baker, who spearheaded the workers' compensation legislative reforms (SB 863) during the Brown Administration, announced her retirement in April 2018. It also comes on the heels of the governor's February 19 announcement that DIR veteran Victoria Hassid, who has served as the Department's Chief Deputy Director since 2018, has been named Chair of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. According to a March 6 news release from the Governor's Office, since 2017 Ms. Hagen has served as Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. Prior to that, she was Deputy Director of Operations at the California Department of Human Resources from 2015 to 2017, and Chief of Human Resources at the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) from 2011 to 2015. In addition, she was adjunct faculty at the University of San Francisco from 2000 to 2011, Deputy Director at California Correctional Healthcare Services from 2006 to 2011 and Assistant Deputy Director at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from 2002 to 2006. Ms. Hagen earned a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco, where she has also taught courses in organizational development.

Ms. Hagen's experience with human resource issues should prove helpful to the DIR, and especially the DWC, which lost its hiring authority to the state Department of Human Resources (DHR) following a March 2019 report by the State Auditor and an April 2019 report by the State Personnel Board that alleged hiring irregularities during the Brown Administration. While DIR has been working to address issues noted in those reports, at last week's DWC Conference in Oakland, DWC Administrative Director George Parisotto said that 2019 had been a challenging year for the Division, particularly given that all DWC hiring must still go through the DHR, which has led to delays in filling positions.

Last Friday's news release also noted the appointment of Doris Ng as DIR General Counsel. Ms. Ng has been staff counsel at the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement since 2014. Prior to that, she was supervising attorney at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach from 2011 to 2013; staff attorney at the Bay Area Legal Aid from 2008 to 2011; supervising clinical attorney for the women's employment rights clinic at the Golden Gate University School of Law from 2003 to 2007; staff attorney at Equal Rights Advocates from 1998 to 2003; associate attorney at Rosen, Bien and Asaro from 1996 to 1998; and a Ruth Chance law fellow at Equal Rights Advocates from 1993 to 1994. Ms. Ng earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

Ms. Hagen's appointment as DIR Director requires Senate confirmation, but Ms. Ng's appointment does not.

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