

A Nation of Widening Opportunities

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The Civil Rights Act at 50

Edited by Ellen D. Katz and Samuel R. Bagenstos

Michigan Publishing

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To our families

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Preface and Acknowledgments

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was an extraordinary achievement of law, politics, and human rights. On the fiftieth anniversary of the Act's passage, it is appropriate to reflect on the successes and failures of the civil rights project reflected in the statute, as well as on its future directions. This volume represents an attempt to assess the Civil Rights Act's legacy.

On October 11, 2013, a diverse group of civil rights scholars met at the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor to assess the interpretation, development, and administration of civil rights law in the five decades since President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act. In the volume that follows, readers will find edited versions of the papers that these scholars presented, enriched by our lively discussions at and after the conference. We hope that the essays in this volume will contribute to the continuing debates regarding the civil rights project in the United States and the world.

This volume, and the conference from which it emerged, would not have existed without the generous financial support of the Anti-Discrimination Center. We thank the Anti-Discrimination Center and its executive director, Craig Gurian, for their tremendous assistance. The current and former deans of the University of Michigan Law School, Mark West and Evan Caminker, also were especially supportive of this project. We thank Jenny Rickard, Jenny Whalen, and Jessica Hanes for their tireless staff work to make the conference and volume a success. And last but not least, we very much appreciate the editorial assistance of two terrific students, Cali Cope-Kasten and Rachel Goldberg.