

Bernard (Jerry) Allen



Bernard (Jerry) Allen, City of Milwaukee Employees' System (CMERS) Executive Director, has a 50-year career directing investments and administration for retirement and other benefit plans in both the public and private sectors. He joined the City of Milwaukee plan in February 2008, just in time to help navigate the global financial crisis as a capstone to a long career in the private sector, primarily in the paper manufacturing industry.

Prior to CMERS Mr. Allen served as Director of Benefit Investments for Stora Enso Oyj N.A., a London based global leader in paper manufacturing from 2001 – 2007. He also served with Fort James, a Chicago based paper maker from 1988 - 2001, ultimately as Director of Global Benefit Investments beginning initially as Director of Employee Benefits.

Prior to serving in the paper industry, Mr. Allen worked as Manger of Benefits for the Martin-Brower Company (Chicago), sole distributor of paper and food products to McDonalds and other leading national restaurant franchises from 1979 - 1988. He began his career in 1974 with the Chicago and Northwestern Railway System as Assistant Corporate Secretary where he installed and managed that firm's retirement plan following the adoption of ERISA that year until 1979. Mr. Allen is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (B.A. – 1971) and of Northern Illinois University at DeKalb (M.A. – 1973).