



For Immediate Release

## ***MLBPA Executive Board Makes Preliminary Decision to Name Michael Weiner Executive Director***

***Unanimous decision to be put to vote of full membership***

**NEW YORK, NY, Wednesday, July 8, 2009** ... During a teleconference held on Tuesday, July 7, the MLBPA Executive Board made a preliminary decision to name Michael Weiner, currently MLBPA General Counsel, as the Association's next Executive Director, replacing Donald Fehr, who announced his resignation on June 22. Although not required to do so, the Executive Board also decided to put Weiner's selection to a vote of the MLBPA's full membership – players, managers, coaches and trainers – before it becomes final. MLBPA members will be notified today in writing of the Board's decision. The Executive Board's votes were without dissent.

"Just as Major Leaguers, past and present, are very fortunate to have had Don Fehr at the helm of our union for the past 25 years, we're just as fortunate to have Michael Weiner poised and positioned to guide us into the future," said Association Representative, Mark Loretta, an infielder with the Los Angeles Dodgers. "With more than 20 years of experience attending to virtually every aspect of Union affairs, the players believe that Michael is uniquely qualified to serve as our next Executive Director. We're confident the full membership will agree."

Weiner, 47, joined the MLBPA in 1988 as counsel, and was named to his current position in 2004. He has participated in virtually every negotiating session with the Clubs in the last several rounds of bargaining, and for more than ten years he has been the staff counsel with the primary responsibility for administering and enforcing the Basic Agreement. (See attached career summary.)

Over the next several weeks, Michael will meet with the players, managers, coaches and trainers on each Club, explain his vision, discuss the tasks and challenges that lie ahead, and answer questions. A vote of the members will follow. Assuming the membership supports the Board's choice, the Executive Board will convene after the season to act formally to appoint Michael as the MLBPA's next Executive Director.

"I am honored to have the confidence and backing of the Executive Board, and I look forward to talking to the full membership to discuss the future of the Union and answer any questions they may have," stated Weiner.

The MLBPA Executive Board is comprised of Player Representatives, Alternate Player Representatives and members of the Executive Subcommittee.

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**Attachments:**

- Michael Weiner Career Summary
- Article VIII of the MLBPA Constitution and By-Laws

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## **Michael Weiner – Career Summary**

- Age: 47;
- Currently MLBPA General Counsel;
- Graduate of Williams College (1983) and Harvard Law School (1986);
- From 1986-88, served as law clerk to the Hon. H. Lee Sarokin, then United States District Court Judge, in Newark, New Jersey;
- Hired by Executive Director, Donald Fehr, as Counsel in 1988, at age 26;
- In 1989, was promoted to Assistant General Counsel, rising to role of Associate General Counsel and, in 2004, to General Counsel – his current role;
- Since 1990, he has attended virtually every bargaining session between players and owners, and in 1994, at age 32, took on a prominent role in drafting and formulating bargaining proposals;
- Was staff attorney working with National Labor Relations Board in 1994-1995 in successfully bringing charge of unfair labor practices against the owners, which resulted in Judge Sonia Sotomayor issuing injunction against owners attempt to unilaterally impose changes in working conditions, including a salary cap;
- During CBA negotiations in 2002, he held prominent role and was a lead negotiator at the bargaining table and formulated and presented core economic proposals, attending virtually every bargaining session between the parties;
- During 2006 CBA negotiations, at age 45, for first time he was the front-chair negotiator of current Basic Agreement without threat of a work stoppage;
- Was lead attorney in formulating the 2005 Joint Drug Agreement and subsequent changes;
- Involved in virtually every grievance hearing between 1989-2004 (including contraction and post 2002-2003 collusion), and since 2004 has been involved with all major grievances;
- Lead lawyer in salary arbitration hearings since early 1990s, and has been present at virtually every salary arbitration hearing since 1998, when, for first time, hearings were held in one location;
- Over last 10 years, he has attended virtually every meeting of the Pension Committee, along with Don Fehr, which administers the MLBPA Benefit Plan;
- Has attended almost every Spring Training meeting with players since 2003, and in 2005 held many of the meetings in Don Fehr's absence;
- Although not lead attorney, has been involved in legal matters and negotiations regarding international play, licensing, immigration, workers compensation and taxation;
- Has been heavily involved in Association's Congressional efforts and activities, including serving in role as MLBPA representative in meetings with members of Congress and their aides;
- Has supervised outside litigation, including the Steve Garvey case and cases relating to the 2003 survey tests.

**Article VIII of the MLBPA Constitution and By-Laws**

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Executive Director**

Section 1. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board to carry out and implement the policies of the Association. The terms and conditions of employment of the Executive Director shall be established by the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall maintain and direct the activities of the permanent office of the Association. He shall be authorized to engage counsel, technical assistance and administrative staff and establish salaries or fees and conditions of employment for such persons, subject to an annual budget established by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Between meetings of the Executive Board, the Executive Director shall direct the affairs of the Association and shall function on behalf of the Executive Board, subject to the approval of the Board.