

MLBPA Slams Rodriguez Over 'Baseless' Lawsuit

The Major League Baseball Players Association fired back on [Alex Rodriguez](#) after A-Rod filed a federal lawsuit to overturn the 162-game suspension issued by independent arbitrator Fredric Horowitz. Rodriguez was given a reduced suspension from 211 to 162 games by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz who also ordered that the third baseman be banned from any 2014 postseason games as well.

Rodriguez was suspended for his involvement in the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic scandal that provided banned [performance enhancing drugs](#) to baseball players. Arbitrator also found Rodriguez using three banned substances each year from 2010 to 2012 and making two attempts to obstruct MLB investigation.

Union chief Tony Clark challenged inclusion of the MLBPA in the federal lawsuit by Rodriguez and called the claim completely without merit. Tony Clark, who replaced highly regarded union chief Michael Weiner in December, issued a statement to challenge inclusion of the union by Rodriguez in the federal lawsuit he filed earlier in the day against MLB and the MLBPA. In a statement, Clark wrote it is unfortunate that Alex Rodriguez has chosen to sue the Players Association and his claim is completely without merit, and we will aggressively defend ourselves and our members from these baseless charges.

Clark was outraged that the New York Yankees slugger decided to attack Weiner in his lawsuit. A-Rod questioned the comments by Weiner, who died from a brain tumor, which suggested that the union would recommend the player make a deal if Major League Baseball has overwhelming evidence linking a player to a violation of the Joint Drug Agreement. Weiner had remarked we are not interested in having players with overwhelming evidence that they violated the (drug) program out there and added that most of the players are not interested in that and we did like to have a clean program.

The 41-year-old Clark was serving as the MLBPA's acting executive director since former executive director Michael Weiner passed on November 22. Jeremy Guthrie, who, along with Curtis Granderson, serves as MLBPA association representative, the union's most senior player-leadership position, said at the appointment of Tony Clark as the union's next executive director that although the need to name a new executive director was brought about by the tragic passing of Michael Weiner, a man we all loved and respected, we're very happy to have someone like Tony take the helm of our union.

The Major League Baseball Players Association chief Clark remarked the Players Association has vigorously defended Rodriguez's rights throughout the Biogenesis investigation, and indeed throughout his career. He added that Rodriguez's allegation that the association has failed to fairly represent him is outrageous, and his gratuitous attacks on the former executive director, [Michael Weiner](#), are inexcusable. When all is said and done, and he is confident the Players Association will prevail.

In another development, a Major League Baseball Players Association lawyer has remarked that A-Rod wanted the union to pursue extraordinary remedies outside of arbitration for stopping attempts to discipline the New York Yankees third baseman. Attorney Daniel Engelstein also said Rodriguez accused the MLBPA of acting arbitrarily by not complying with Rodriguez's demands that the union pursue extraordinary remedies outside of the arbitration process to 'stand up' to the Major League Baseball and to stop it from acting in a manner Rodriguez characterized as improper.