

LOU MELENDEZ

Lou Melendez was born and raised in New York City. He attended the City College of New York from which he graduated in 1974 with a B.A. in Sociology. In 1978 he graduated from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey with a Juris Doctor. Upon graduation he joined the New York State Attorney Generals Office-Office of the Special Prosecutor where he handled cases involving corruption within New York City criminal justice system and police department. He left the Special Prosecutors Office in 1980 to join the National Labor Relations Board- Region 2 (“NLRB”) where he pursued his interest in labor law and labor relations. While at the NLRB he investigated and litigated unfair labor practice cases and also served as a hearing officer in representation cases.

Lou left the NLRB in 1983 to join the Office of The Commissioner-Major League Baseball where he served as Associate Counsel in the Player Relations Committee. (“PRC”). The PRC was management’s labor department. In his capacity as Associate Counsel Lou was involved in all aspects of collective bargaining on behalf of the 30 major league teams, assisted Club’s in the administration and enforcement of the CBA, represented Club’s in grievance arbitration cases, assisted Club’s in the presentation and litigation of salary arbitration cases and for several years administered and enforced MLB’s Drug Policy.

In 2000 Lou was named Vice President of International Baseball Operations within MLB’s Baseball Operations Department. In this role Lou was responsible for, among other things, opening and supervising MLB’s first satellite office outside of the United States. This office was established in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic with 2 employees. Today there are more than 50 employees working out of this office. The work done through this office changed the baseball industry in the Dominican Republic and throughout Latin America. In his capacity as VP Lou also administered the Winter League Agreement that manages the relationship between MLB and the Winter Leagues. For the most part Lou was responsible for all aspects of international operations that impacted MLB and its Clubs outside of the United States.

Lou left the Office of the Commissioner at the end of 2012 and served as Senior Advisor to the Senior Vice President of International Operations in a consultant’s role. He focused his energies in reviving baseball in Puerto Rico through various programs including an afterschool program for elite high school players, a summer league for elite high school players and in the development of other programs that may gain MLB’s support in order to reverse the trend that took hold in Puerto Rico after the Amateur Draft was instituted in 1989.

Since 2002 Lou has served on the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico Baseball Academy and High School (“PRBAHS”). This unique school has graduated over 98% of its students. More than 95% of the students have gone on to colleges and universities in the U.S. and P.R. 114 graduates have been drafted by MLB teams since the school graduated its first class. This is more than any high school in the United States. In 2012 the school was roundly recognized when Carlos Correa became the first Puerto Rican to be drafted first overall in the Amateur Draft by the Houston Astros.

In 2006, 2009 and 2013 Lou served as the General Manager of Team Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic. In 2013 Team Puerto Rico lost in the gold medal game to Team Dominican Republic. Team Puerto Rico defeated teams from Venezuela, the United States and Japan before losing to the team from the Dominican Republic.

In 2014 Lou established Sports and Media Partners LLC (“SMP”). In November 2015 SMP collaborated with the Miami Marlins and the Caribbean Confederation to play four winter league games in Marlins Park. The Aguilas Cibaenas and Tigres de Licey from the Dominican Winter League together with the Navegantes del Magallanes and the Cardenales de Lara from the Venezuelan Winter League played a regular season game and interleague games to the delight of thousands of Dominicans and Venezuelans from the state of Florida.

Since May of 2016 Lou has served as consultant to Tony Clark, Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, and his staff.

Lou currently resides in northern New Jersey with his wife Yolanda.