

The Award Criteria

- Candidate may be a lawyer or non-lawyer and must have at least five years experience in sports law or a sports field in general. Candidate does not have to be currently active in the sports industry. Award can be made posthumously.
- Candidate exhibits “service-above-self” attitude. This would have been demonstrated by a record of community involvement, public service, or other engagements that clearly have had a positive, motivating effect on others.
- Candidate must be regarded as a person with high integrity and ethics and possess the qualities held in highest regard by those in the field of sports law.
- Candidate must have a consistent record of presenting the practice and/or theory of sports law in a positive light to the sports world and the public in general.

Nomination Process

- Nominations are accepted from active members of the Sports Lawyers Association and members of the Selection Committee.

Selection Committee

- The Selection Committee is, at a minimum, composed of three representatives of the association. At the discretion of SLA’s president, the Selection Committee can be expanded to include not more than seven members, and one member of the committee serves as chairperson.

Presentation of the Award

- The Award of Excellence is presented during the Sports Lawyers Association annual conference.

Public Relations

- The Sports Lawyers Association engages in focusing attention on the award through its contacts with the sports media and sports broadcast industry.



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Sports Lawyers Association

Award of Excellence



Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig



2007 Recipient: Commissioner Bud Selig

ALLAN H. (BUD) SELIG **Ninth Commissioner of Baseball**

Allan H. (Bud) Selig was elected the ninth Commissioner of Baseball on July 9, 1998, by a unanimous vote of the 30 Major League Baseball club owners.

Selig was born on July 30, 1934, in Milwaukee, and received a bachelor's degree in American History and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1956.

Selig's active role in baseball, in the Milwaukee community and throughout the nation, has resulted in many honors and awards during his career too numerous to include here. Some of these include:

- Named the 2006 Executive of the Year by the *Sports Business Journal* and the *Sports Business Daily* for his accomplishments during the calendar year;
- Inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, November 29, 2001;
- “Master of the Game Award” from Marquette University Sports Law Institute, September 22, 2000;
- Inducted into Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame; May 3, 2000.
- The Herbert Hoover Humanitarian Award, received November 19, 1998 from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for outstanding service to benefit America's youth;
- Recipient of the “World of Difference” Award from the Anti-Defamation League, February 1994;
- Recipient of the “August A. Busch, Jr. Award”, presented by Major League Baseball Ownership, September 1989. The award, given for “long and meritorious service to baseball,” is the equivalent for off-field personnel to the players’ Most Valuable Player Award;
- Named the United States Olympic Committee “Sportsman of the Year Award” winner for his contributions to baseball and to youth in Milwaukee, May 1983; and
- Named “Major League Executive of the Year” by United Press International, 1978.

Selig, who was active in the governance of Major League Baseball during his tenure as President of the Milwaukee Brewers, was a member of the Major League

Executive Council when Commissioner Fay Vincent resigned on September 7, 1992. In accordance with the Major League Agreement, which grants the Executive Council the authority to rule Baseball in the absence of a Commissioner, Selig became the central figure in Baseball's power structure on September 9, 1992 when his fellow owners named him Chairman of the Major League Executive Council.

Selig served a dual role as President of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club and Chairman of the Executive Council until his appointment as Commissioner on July 9, 1998. At that time his financial interest in the club was placed in trust and he relinquished involvement in all matters dealing with the operation of the Brewers. In January 2005, the Brewers were sold to Mark Attanasio, thus ending Selig's 35-year relationship with the club.

As Chairman of the Executive Council, and then as Commissioner, Selig's ability to rule by consensus brought about numerous dramatic changes to baseball, including:

- Interleague play;
- Significant revenue sharing among clubs;
- Three-division formats in the American and National Leagues;
- An extra tier of playoffs and the Wild Card;
- First phase of realignment;
- Consolidation of the administrative functions of the American and National Leagues into the Commissioner's Office;
- The restoration of the rulebook strike zone;
- Unbalanced schedule; and
- Awarding the home field advantage in the World Series to the team that represents the league that won the All-Star Game;

But most important, on August 31, 2002, Selig engineered an historic labor agreement with the Major League Baseball Players Association that avoided a work stoppage and provided significant economic concessions to the clubs. Those concessions have brought on greater competitive balance among the clubs. For the first time in 30 years, the clubs and the Players Association were able to reach a labor agreement without either a strike or a lockout.

This unprecedented era of labor peace will continue

as the clubs and players reached a new, five-year pact on October 24, 2006. The new contract, which terminates on December 11, 2011, is the longest labor contract in baseball history. By the end of the contract, baseball will have gone 16 years without a strike or lock-out, the longest period of labor peace since the inception of the collective bargaining relationship.

In a joint announcement with the MLB Players Association on November 15, 2006, Major League Baseball implemented an even tougher drug-testing program, which calls for a 50-game suspension of first-time offenders, a 100-game suspension for a second offense, and a life-time ban for a third. The new agreement also banned the use of amphetamines and implemented a testing plan and a disciplinary policy for the use of that substance.

Under his leadership as Executive Council Chairman and Commissioner, new stadiums have opened in Arizona, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado, Detroit, Houston, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis and Texas. New ball parks are underway in Washington, D.C., Minnesota, and in New York for the Yankees and Mets.

Despite presiding over the game during a troubled period that included a 272-day player strike in 1994 and 1995, Selig is in the process of guiding the game through a significant renaissance. Major League Baseball has set all-time attendance records three consecutive years – in 2004, 2005, and again in 2006. The attendance record of 76,042,787 fans that attended games at the 30 ballparks in 2006 was 1.5 percent greater than the record set the previous season. And, revenues have increased more than four-fold, from \$1.2 billion in 1992 to \$5.2 billion in 2006.

Bud and his wife, Sue, have three daughters and five granddaughters.

Previous Award Recipients

1991	Alan I. Rothenberg
1992	Anita L. DeFrantz
1993	Lloyd E. Shefsky and John F. Wendel
1994	Gary Bettman and Jay Moyer
1997	Reuven J. Katz
2000	Stanley H. Kasten
2004	Marvin J. Miller
2005	Paul J. Tagliabue