

Alex Rodriguez Files Lawsuit Against MLB

by Anthony Caruso on October 9, 2013

After several weeks of speculation, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez announced that he has filed a lawsuit against Major League Baseball with the New York Supreme Court.

The suit accuses MLB - as well as commissioner Bud Selig - of engaging in "vigilante justice" to destroy Rodriguez's reputation and career. The lawsuit goes so far as to say that in addition to exhibiting unethical and potentially criminal behavior, MLB's unprecedented 211-game suspension against the player was done so in an attempt to "gloss over" their previous inaction against performance-enhancing drugs in the sports industry.

"They have ignored the procedures set forth in baseball's collectively bargained labor agreement; violated the strict confidentiality imposed by these agreements; paid individuals millions of dollars and made promises of future employment to individuals in order to get them to produce documents and to testify on MLB's behalf; bullied and intimidated those individuals who refused to cooperate with their witch hunt; and singled out plaintiff for an unprecedented 211-game suspension - the longest non-permanent ban in baseball history," the suit reads.

However, the MLB notes that the suit, in addition to being factually inaccurate, is an attempt to avoid the league's arbitration process under sports law. MLB may have more support to dispute these claims, particularly as its collective bargaining agreement requires league officials and A-Rod to settle their issues through binding arbitration. The arbitration grievance process has been a cornerstone of the league's collective bargaining agreement for decades, and MLB may consider the lawsuit to be a breach of the confidentiality provisions of its drug program.

While A-Rod's lawsuit may temporarily halt the arbitration process, it is also likely to complicate any potential settlements made between the All-Star player and the league. It's also unclear how the move will affect Rodriguez's career and reputation in the industry.