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# Michael Jackson says he wants 'full attention' of his attorneys

By Linda Deutsch  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson dropped the two high-profile lawyers leading his defense in a child molestation case, declaring on Monday that his life is at stake and that he deserved their full attention.

The pop star's announcement came in a statement issued a day after the attorneys Mark Geragos and Benjamin Brafman said they voluntarily "stepped down" from the case for reasons they would not discuss publicly.

"I have not replaced my defense team," said the statement, which was issued by Jackson's spokeswoman, Raymone K. Bain. "I have replaced the lead attorneys. And, contrary to reports, this is a decision that I have personally made."

The statement suggested that Jackson was concerned that Geragos is also representing Scott Peterson, who is accused of killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Brafman, a top New York attorney, was working with Geragos on the Jackson case, but had to travel cross-country for court appearances.

"It is imperative that I have the full attention of those who are representing me. My life is at stake," Jackson said. "Therefore, I must feel confident that my interests are of the highest priority. I am innocent of these false charges, and will seek to clear my name."

Jackson, 45, is free on \$1 million bail. He was charged with seven counts of lewd or lascivious conduct involving a child under 14, with administering an anesthetic, reportedly wine, to a child under 14.

Thomas Mesereau, Jackson's new lawyer, sent actor Robert Blake to represent him until they parted company, citing "irreconcilable differences."

The change in attorneys comes less than a year before Jackson is due to appear for arraignment on a jury indictment.

Brian Oxman, a Jackson family attorney, said the move prompted Jackson to re-evaluate his team. Oxman said he had been Jackson's attorney since he represented him from the time he was 11 years old.

Harland Braun, the lawyer who was replaced by Mesereau in the Blake case, said it is not unusual for high-profile stars to change lawyers.

"Think of it as a campaign," Braun said. "A candidate changes managers in the middle of a campaign."


He said Mesereau will be the challenge of a lifetime in defending Jackson.

"For a lawyer, it's like a Wallenda on the tightrope," said. "It's a case that you never forget."

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<b>LOCATION: 501 RUDDER</b> Brian Barras (Biomedical Science) Courtney Brannon (English) Arwen Ham (Psychology) Hannah Peterson (American Studies)	<b>LOCATION: 501 RUDDER</b> Nicholas Anthis (Biochemistry) Jennifer Dulin (Biochemistry) Randal Halfmann (Genetics) Sasha Van Meter (Biomedical Science)
<b>LOCATION: 502 RUDDER</b> Jessica Harrison (Psychology) Matthew Hawthorne (History) Katy Lowe (Political Science) Leslie Scheuermann (Political Science) Ciara Williams (Political Science)	<b>LOCATION: 502 RUDDER</b> Jacob Beaudoin (Computer Engineering) Zane Goodwin (Computer Science) Matthew Jackson (Nuclear Engineering) Steven Sensarn (Electrical Engineering) Kevin Walkington (Computer Science)
<b>LOCATION: 504 RUDDER</b> Logan Boatman (History) Reshma Brahmhatt (Anthropology) Michael Hood (Finance) Joseph Mignogna (Psychology) Lindsay Orman (English)	<b>LOCATION: 504 RUDDER</b> Jeffrey Cobb (Electrical Engineering) Casey Deen (Physics) Jason VanFickell (Computer Engineering)
<b>LOCATION: 507 RUDDER</b> James Cole (Accounting) Michael Johnson (History) Erin Miller (Psychology) Andrew Polk (American Studies) Joshua Siepel (Genetics)	<b>LOCATION: 507 RUDDER</b> Bret Evers (Biochemistry) Midhat Farooqi (Genetics) Sachin Patel (Biomedical Science) Jason Wang (Genetics) Justin Wright (Biomedical Science)
<b>LOCATION: 510 RUDDER</b> Sarah Andrew (Psychology) Anna Diller (Biomedical Science) Samuel Lee (Psychology) Meredith Morgan (English) Sarah Moynan (Psychology)	

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**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**Jackie Chan named goodwill ambassador of two U.N. agencies**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Jackie Chan, who is known for his daredevil stunts, was named a goodwill ambassador Monday for the United Nations' Children's Fund and AIDS agencies.

The Hong Kong action film star will help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and discrimination against people affected by the disease, and advance the causes of children, particularly those who have been through armed conflict, said Rodney Hatfield, UNICEF's representative in Cambodia.

"Let me know whatever I can do, wherever I can go, I'll do it," Chan said at a news conference, where he wore a turquoise T-shirt bearing the word UNICEF.

Chan, a box-office star of Hollywood and Chinese-language movies for more than 20 years, will visit children suffering from AIDS and tour land mine rehabilitation centers during his two-day stay in Cambodia, which ends Wednesday.

"We are confident that Jackie's prestige, great talent and genuine concern for children will help the United Nations send a powerful message on the impact of HIV/AIDS and conflict on children that will reach the hearts and minds of people throughout the world," Hatfield said.

Cambodia has Southeast Asia's highest HIV infection rate, although it dropped to 2.6 percent in 2002 from 3.8 percent in 2001.

Chan, whose movies include "The Legend of Drunken Master," "Shanghai Noon" and the sequel "Shanghai Knights," will begin shooting the third film in the "Rush Hour" series later this month.

"I always think I am so lucky," he said. "So, now it's my turn to give back."

Other UNICEF goodwill ambassadors include actors Morgan Freeman, Moore and Jessica Lange and singers Harry Belafonte and Ricky Martin.

**Beatles' cartoon to be released as a children's book this September**

LONDON (AP) — The Beatles' psychedelic cartoon "The Yellow Submarine" is being adapted for a children's book, the publisher said Monday.

Apple Corps Ltd. said it had joined with Walker Books to publish the book, which is expected to arrive in stores in September, 36 years after the original animated feature film was released.

The book was inspired by the success of the release in 1968 of a digitally restored DVD version of the 1968 cult classic "The Yellow Submarine" which was made as a psychedelic film in the sixties, but it has had a timeless appeal, particularly for children over the last four decades, Apple Corps said.

The film followed the release of the "The Yellow Submarine" single in 1966, which was a hit in Britain, Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden.

It was translated into many languages, including Yiddish, Spanish, Latin, and was taken up as an anthem by American protesters opposing the war in Vietnam.

**Estee Lauder, whose cosmetic empire made her a fortune, dies at 97**

NEW YORK (AP) — Cosmetics pioneer Estee Lauder, whose pots of potions and tubs of moisturizers have turned her into a fortune for millions of faces across the globe, has died. She was 97.

Lauder, who helped launch product lines that included Revlon, Lauder, Clinique, Aramis, Prescriptives and Origins, died of a diaphragmatic arrest Saturday at her Manhattan home, said Susan, a company spokeswoman.

In 1998, Lauder was the only woman on Time magazine's list of the 20 most influential business geniuses of the century. Her company placed No. 349 in the 2003 ranking in the Fortune 500, one of the nation's largest companies, with revenue at \$4.744 billion.