

LIEBMAN TO CHAIR NLRB

President Obama designates Wilma B. Liebman (D), who has served for more than 11 years as a member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), as chairperson of the five-member board. Liebman joined the board in November 1997 and is now serving her third term, which expires in August 2011. Prior to becoming a board member, Liebman served from 1994 to 1997 at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, first as special assistant to the director and then as deputy director. She worked as an attorney for the Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen from 1990 to 1993 and for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters from 1980 to 1989. She started her legal career as an NLRB staff attorney in 1974 after earning a bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a law degree from the George Washington University Law Center.

"The Board's work matters, just as it did when the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935. Democracy in the workplace is still basic to a democratic society, and collective bargaining is still basic to a fair economy. The statute we administer is the foundation of America's commitment to human rights recognized around the world," Liebman says.

There currently are three vacancies on the board, giving President Obama the opportunity to create a Democratic majority on the board at the beginning of his term. The board traditionally has two Democrats, two Republicans, and a fifth member from the president's party. The president can designate any member to serve as chairperson.

Liebman succeeds Peter C. Schaumber (R), who served as chairperson since March 2008. His term as a board member expires in August 2010.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 13, January 23, 2009, p. A8.)