

# International Trade Daily

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## Agencies and Departments

### Leo Hindery Seen as Possible Candidate

#### For USTR in Incoming Obama Administration

Businessman Leo J. Hindery Jr. has emerged as a possible candidate for U.S. trade representative in an Obama administration, joining several others who have previously been mentioned to fill the post of top U.S. trade negotiator.

Sources said that Hindery, a long-time donor to the Democratic Party and various Democratic political candidates, is being pushed by some in the U.S. labor movement who cite his broadly pro-union views and labor's contribution to Obama's election victory.

Hindery, who is currently managing partner of media industry private equity fund InterMedia Partners, served as senior economic policy adviser to Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards until the former North Carolina senator dropped out of the race in January.

A former chairman and chief executive officer of The YES Network, which he founded in 2001 as the television home of the New York Yankees, Hindery endorsed Obama as a presidential candidate earlier this year, arguing that, like him, Obama believes that trade agreements have to provide “clear and measurable benefits” for U.S. workers and must incorporate labor and environmental standards and prohibit illegal subsidies and currency manipulation.

Concerned to Repair 'Bipartisan Coalition.'

Hindery wrote in an Op-Ed piece in the Financial Times Nov. 7 that there has been a “complete unravelling” of the bipartisan coalition on trade policy that once defined the modern free trade movement in the United States.

“[W]ithout another bipartisan coalition,” he said, “further trade barrier reductions around the world will be dim.”

Hindery also wrote in the piece—co-written by Shanker Singham, a senior trade adviser to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and head of the Market Access/WTO group at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP—that it is imperative that the United States be as “aggressive” in defending its economic interests as its trading partners have been in advancing theirs.

He said that the U.S. trade representative, in particular, should supplement its annual survey of foreign trade barriers to include market distortions of any kind, and that the World Trade Organization should address them as aggressively as it deals with tariffs and other border measures.

Earlier, Hindery was president and CEO of Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI) and in 1999 he became CEO of AT&T Broadband (formed by the merger of TCI and AT&T). He is also a former chairman of the National Cable Television Association and of C-SPAN.

Lael Brainard Still Seen as Frontrunner.

Sources said, however, that despite some behind-the-scenes support from labor for Hindery as Obama's trade representative, the front-runner for the post continues to be Lael Brainard, who served as deputy director of the National Economic Council during the Clinton administration and is now director of the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution.

Other possible USTR candidates previously cited include former congressman Calvin M. "Cal" Dooley (D-Calif.), who heads the American Chemistry Council; Thomas F. "Mac" McLarty III, a White House chief of staff in the Clinton administration; Daniel K. Tarullo, a law professor at Georgetown University Law Center, who was named Nov. 19 to head Obama's economic policy working group; and Michael R. Wessel, a long-time congressional staffer who currently runs his own public affairs consulting firm, the Wessel Group Inc.

By Gary G. Yerkey