

I am pleased to have been nominated as a candidate for USA Judo At-Large Director. This is the first time in USA Judo history where some board members are being elected directly by the general membership. I would be honored if you would vote for me.

Judo has been an integral part of my life. Like many of you, I have devoted much time and many resources to judo. I view serving on the USA Judo's board as an additional opportunity to give back more to judo in the spirit of mutual benefit and welfare.

I began judo in 1992 while attending Georgetown University Law Center. I have been fortunate to have a great group of instructors and senseis; such as Jimmy Takemore, Roy Englert, Jr. and Tad Nalls in Washington, DC, Vince Tamura and Jim Webb in Dallas, TX, Tommy Dyer in Fort Worth, TX, and Ken Scialo and Ken Patteson in Plano, TX.

In the mid-1990s to early 2000s, I competed regionally and nationally (including nationally rostered as a 90 kg competitor for a year). I am now an active IJF Continental referee.

I became involved in judo administration in 2001 as secretary of Texas Judo and a Texas delegate to USA Judo board meetings. I have continued to serve as a Texas Judo officer (President and Secretary) and on various USA Judo committees, including chair of both the Nominating Committee and Background Screening Committee.

Professionally, I am a lawyer in the Dallas area, serve as counsel to a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee, and maintain a solo practice. Formerly I was a partner in the Dallas office of a Washington, DC based international law firm representing creditors in large and complex business bankruptcies.

While I am a lawyer, I also understand the operations, finances, and stresses of business. My undergraduate degree is in Finance and Economics and for over ten years I have been a co-owner of the largest antique mall in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Over the years I have also served in other organizations, such as a committee member and chair in my church, on my university's alumni association board, and in several professional organizations.

I believe that there are many great things about judo in the United States and many things we can work to improve together. As a sport with limited resources, we need to make smart decisions and find efficient ways to improve the things we do well. But we also must work on areas that need to be strengthened. We need a board that is inclusive, willing to listen, responsive, and willing to work with everyone who can provide a positive benefit for judo in the United States. However, we also need a board that can consider necessary change even when it is not easy.

As a former President and current board member of Texas Judo, USA Judo committee member, former competitor, and an active referee; I understand the need for our board members to listen to input whether from individual members, competitors, coaches, referees, or others who may be able to help better our organization. Based on my experiences inside and outside of judo, I believe I can provide solid leadership and decision making as a board member. It would be an honor to serve you as an At-Large director on the USA Judo board.