

Donald Alperstein

Board of Directors Candidate Statement

I am pleased that the USA Fencing Nominating Committee selected me to be a candidate for reelection to the Board of Directors. I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to those who don't know me and to share my ideals and the objectives I intend to pursue as a Board member.

Who I Am

I have a long history in fencing, Olympic sports and as a business lawyer. I was President of USA Fencing from 1996-2000, and proudly served the organization as general legal counsel for five different presidents over more than 18 years. For that service and my work on many committees and task forces I have been recognized with the Award for Service to Clubs and Divisions, the Jack Baker Award for Service to the USFA and a Special Service Award in 2013. I continue to compete as a veteran fencer, and my role as a national and FIE referee covers several decades.

I represented USA Fencing at many FIE Congresses, and have been elected to FIE commissions and panels, including, at present, the Council on Discipline. In this latter capacity I recently chaired an international panel that took unprecedented steps against a federation and individuals who committed significant violations of the FIE Code of Ethics. The FIE Executive Committee appointed me as Supervisor for numerous world cup competitions. As a member of the American Arbitration Association Sport Arbitration Panel, I was called upon to resolve Olympic Family disputes on a wide range of issues, and I have performed legal work for two other Olympic sports.

My legal career has focused on the needs of businesses and amateur sports organizations. I currently serve on the boards of two non-profit foundations. My past fencing activities include organizing several major events, among them two Junior Olympic Championships. At present, I serve as the Board liaison to the Referee's Commission, the Division Resources Team and USA SEMI Commission. Please find a more complete resume below.

A Team Player in Our Individual Sport

USA Fencing is on the cusp of great things, and we can achieve them with coordinated, cooperative governance that recognizes the needs of our members and the realities confronting modern sport organizations. Setting me apart from many others, I owe no special loyalty to any individual, club, school or business: I am free from conflicts of interest.

On small boards such as ours, the integrity and experience of each member becomes paramount. As a member of the Board, my first priority will continue to be ensuring that USA Fencing adheres to the highest ethical standards and functions as a responsive and responsible organization. We must know who and what we are as an organization, have a vision of where we should take USA Fencing, and work together moving forward into the future. To that end, I was the principal drafter and a strong supporter of the Bylaw that created the Ethics Committee and am taking other initiatives to ensure the organization functions ethically. Because I believe it is

in USA Fencing's best interest, I am pursuing policies and sponsoring rules to make public required conflict of interest disclosures by officers, Board members and committee leaders. And because I feel it is important to "walk the walk," I have authorized the Ethics Committee and Executive Director to release my conflict of interest disclosures to anyone who requests a copy.

Businesslike, But Not a Business

We often hear that "USA Fencing should be run like a business." I don't agree. Businesses measure success in one way: a profitable bottom line. USA Fencing is not a business, it is a service organization. Our purpose is not to make money, but to grow the sport and to meet the needs of our members, clubs and other constituencies. Our success should be measured by how well we achieve these goals.

Achieving this kind of success means being "businesslike," in that we have a responsibility to use our members' and supporters' money wisely by maximizing the use of funds while living within our means. People will willingly pay for services when the value received equals or exceeds the cost. Finding new revenue sources will enhance our ability to provide ever-better services. I believe that with responsible and realistic financial planning, we can elevate the services we provide and establish a secure financial future without wishing for guardian angels or digging unfairly into our members' pockets.

Where We Are Going

USA Fencing is changing. We have evolved from a geographically oriented organization into a club-based sport. Therein lies our future. The clubs recruit our new members and volunteers and foster enthusiasm and respect for the sport. I believe our success depends on building an environment in which clubs can thrive. This means providing clubs and club owners with efficiently delivered tools and services that help entrepreneurs start and manage financially sound programs.

Still, despite increasing dependence on a professional staff, we cannot lose sight of the fact that Fencing continues to lean heavily on volunteers, including tournament officials and committee members who work long and hard with little recognition or reward. Treating our volunteers with respect, acknowledging their contributions, and fostering members who seek to join the volunteer community are essential to the future health of the organization and growth of the sport we all love. To this end, for example, I am especially proud of my role in reforming our methods of assisting and managing our referee corps, and in particular in giving referees a meaningful voice in the selection of Referees' Commission leadership. We need to continue such efforts with other groups within the fencing community. Most urgently, we need to develop and implement additional resources and programs for both new and established coaches. Without healthy clubs, effective coaches and energized volunteers, we will not succeed. Supporting them has to be our priority. Board support of our professional staff and ensuring that the National Office operates knowledgeably, responsively and effectively are essential to moving the organization forward. The staff will look to the Board for direction and the means to carry out their charge. The Board needs to facilitate staff's ability to function without interfering in their work, while at the same time making sure that established policies and programs are

effectively implemented. Technology and systems are not answers in and of themselves, but they can be tools for implementing solutions. We should embrace developments that make us better at providing services and maintaining accountability.



USA Fencing is my passion. I firmly believe that we stand at the threshold of a new and golden age for our organization and our sport. As the drafter of USA Fencing's vision statement, "To inspire a lifetime enriched by fencing," I fully embrace that sentiment. If you share my values and vision for USA Fencing, I would appreciate your vote.

A more formal statement of my credentials, in the form of a resume, is set forth below.

RESUME
DONALD W. ALPERSTEIN

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Legal Practice

Alperstein & Covell, P.C.
1600 Broadway, Suite 1070
Denver, CO 80202-4903
1985 to present

General practice of law including: Arbitration,
Mediation, Business Organizations and
Transactions; Real Estate; Amateur Sports Law;
and Legal Fee and Billing Analysis

Professional Memberships and Recognition

Colorado Bar Foundation

Trustee, Colorado Bar Foundation, February 2014-
present (Finance Committee 2016 to present; chair
2019 to TBD)

Elected a Fellow of Colorado Bar Foundation 1993

Colorado Bar Association

Member of Business Law and Litigation Sections

Colorado Bar Association Professionalism
Committee (Chair, Subcommittee on Fees and
Billing, 1996 – 2000)

Board of Governors (1994 – 1996)

Multiple committees (1991-present)

Denver Bar Association

DBA and CBA Joint Professionalism Coordinating
Council 1991- present (DBA Chair 2007– 2012)

Legal Fee Arbitration Committee (1980 to present;
Chair, 1990 – 1994)

Representative to Colorado Bar Association Board
of Governors (Elected by the membership, 1994)

Prior DBA service includes Judicial Selection and
Benefits Committee; Intraprofessional Committee;
and New Lawyers Assistance Committee, Speaker's
Bureau; Mentor-Mentee program for young lawyers

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Martindale-Hubbell Client Distinction Award, 2016, 2017, 2018

Martindale-Hubbell rated “AV– Preeminent”

Colorado “Super Lawyer” in business and corporate law, 2006

Related Activities

Article Author	“Five of the Greatest – A Tribute to Outstanding Lawyers in Colorado History: Arnold Alperstein,” <i>The Colorado Lawyer</i> , July 2007
	“An Ultimate Cuban Experience,” <i>The Docket</i> , December 2007
Contributing Author and Editor	“Teaching Manual – Professionalism Video Vignettes,” Joint Coordinating Council on Professionalism of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations (2008) (ABA Grambrell Professionalism Award recipient)
Editor	“Professionalism – A Necessary Component of a Successful Lawyer’s Performance,” forward article to special edition of <i>The Colorado Lawyer</i> devoted to professionalism, published October 2013
Chapter Author	"Trial Techniques in Business and Commercial Cases," <i>Commercial Litigation in Colorado</i> , Law Practice Handbooks, Inc., 1995
Lecturer and Author of Course Materials	Lecturer and author of course materials for numerous continuing education programs on topics covering professionalism, legal fees and billing, and amateur sports law

SPORT, CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Colorado Fencing Foundation	President of Board of Trustees of 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation benefitting promising athletes in need of financial support, 1998-present
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Sport Arbitrations

American Arbitration Association Sports panel (arbitrator of Section 9 (formerly Article IX) right to participate and other disputes).

United States Fencing Association President, 1996-2000

Member of National Board of Directors (1984-2000; 2015 – present), currently liaison to the Referees' Commission, Divisions Resource Team, and US SEMI Committee

General legal counsel (1992-96; 2000-2012)

National Tournament Referee (highest ranking)

International referee development advisor (epee group) and new international referee mentor.

Award for Service to Divisions and Sections, 2005

Jack Baker Award for Service to USA Fencing, 2011

Special recognition award for long years of service as general counsel, 2013

Member of National Executive Committee (1996-2010)

General Counsel (pro bono) and Chair, Legal Resources Group (1992-1996; 2000-2013)

Chair, National Bylaws Revision Committee (1990-1993)

Bylaw Review Committee (2008-2010), principal drafter of 2010 complete bylaw revision

Nominating Committee (Chair, 1992; 2010; 2012)

Organizing Committee Chair for 1989 and 1993 Junior Olympic Championships and other national level competitions

Numerous other committee memberships (1988-present)

Federation Internationale d' Escrime	Member of Disciplinary Council (2004-2008; 2012-present) (formerly "Disciplinary Commission"); Chair of panel assigned to adjudicate a dispute between two international fencing federations (2018) Designated Supervisor of World Cup Competitions (2004-2009) Internationally rated referee 2000-2011 (aged out at 60 years old), with service at numerous World Cup and Grand Prix competitions, including medal bouts; continued service as international referee of cadet competitions.
PanAmerican Fencing Confederation	Statutes (Bylaws) Committee, 1999 to 2003
International Olympic Committee	Recipient of Diploma (2001) "For remarkable contribution, as a Volunteer, to the development of sport and Olympism, and to the promotion of friendship and solidarity among peoples."
USA Taekwondo	Special Counsel for Disciplinary Matters (2014-2018)
USA Wrestling	Judicial Committee (independent member (2014-2016)
Metro Volunteer Lawyers	Pro bono legal services for the indigent, volunteer lawyer c. 1988-present
Team Coach for "We the People"	National high school competition to teach principles of constitutional law to high school students, 2011.
Planetary Society	1980-present (Charter member)

LEGAL EDUCATION

Harvard Law School Cambridge, Massachusetts Juris Doctor (1976)	Activities: Williston Contract Negotiation Competition; Ames Moot Court Competition; Lexis Development Program (computerized legal research); Harvard Voluntary Defenders
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UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Whitman College Activities:
Walla Walla, Washington
Bachelor of Arts (1973 -
Magna Cum Laude) with
honors in Philosophy; Astronomy
minor equivalent

Varsity Debate; Student Member, Academic
Advisory Board; Program Director, KWCW-FM;
Coordinator, INTERIM '72; Order of Waiilatpu
(service award)

COURT ADMISSIONS:

Colorado (1976)

U.S. Supreme Court (1995)

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado (1976)

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas (1997)

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan (1998)

U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit (1979)

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:

Fencing, reading, golf, cycling, astronomy, gardening