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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2027-28 USTA Southern Board of Directors

### **Drew Meyers; President & CEO; Zwolle, La.**

Drew Meyers was nominated for USTA Southern President & CEO for the 2027-28 term after serving as Executive Vice President for two years. He served as Vice President from 2017-2024. Previously, he served a two-year term as USTA Southern Secretary and a three-year term as USTA Louisiana President from 2012-14. He has served on USTA Southern Adult and Junior Competition committees and as Chair of The Callen Cup Subcommittee. In addition to serving two terms on the USTA Adult Competition Committee, Meyers was appointed in 2017 as Chair of the USTA Senior International Team Selection Committee, which selects teams representing the United States. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the USTA Rules Council. From 2003-17, he served as captain of the Louisiana Men's Callen Cup team and captained Team Southern for the Keith Donoff Challenge Cup, a men's intersectional competition, from 2014-24. Meyers and his family were inducted into the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame in 2012. Meyers retired as an attorney specializing in civil litigation.

### **John Herring; Executive Vice President; Lexington, Ky.**

John Herring was nominated to the post of USTA Southern Executive Vice President for the 2027-28 term. He has served as Treasurer since 2019. He served as USTA Southern Director at Large (2017-18 term). He served as President of USTA Kentucky from 2012-13 and was inducted into the Kentucky Tennis Hall of Fame in 2012. He serves as Chair of the Southern Tennis Foundation Audit Committee and as a member of the Southern Tennis Foundation Budget Committee and the USTA Local Play & Competition Committee. Herring has served on various USTA Southern committees and was previously a member of the USTA School/After-School Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Herring is a practicing CPA, accredited in business valuation and certified in financial forensics. In addition, he is the assistant women's tennis coach at Centre College and serves as a Board member of the Bluegrass Tennis Association.

### **John Cox; Vice President; Cleveland, Miss.**

John Cox was nominated to the post of USTA Southern Vice President for his second two-year term. Previously, he served two two-year terms as USTA Southern Director at Large in 2015-16 and 2017-18. He served as USTA Mississippi President from 2013-14, when he chaired the USTA Southern State Presidents Committee. Cox is a member of the USTA National Nominating Committee and entered his second two-year term on that committee in 2025. He has served on the USTA National Adult Competition Committee and the USTA Learning and Leadership Task Force. He has been a member of the following USTA Southern committees: Adult Tournament - Age Group, Adult Tournament - Ratings Based, Constitution and Rules, and Advocacy. In 2016, Cox was selected for inclusion in the first class of the national USTA Leadership cohort. Cox is a practicing attorney in Cleveland, Miss., and a high school tennis coach at Bayou Academy, where his teams have won numerous team state championships. Cox was inducted into the Mississippi Tennis Hall of Fame in January 2025.

### **Ashley Massengale; Vice President; Atlanta**

Ashley Massengale was nominated to the post of USTA Southern Vice President for the 2027-28 term. She has also previously served as Vice President and Director at Large. She is a past President of USTA Georgia and USTA Atlanta. She chairs the USTA League Committee at the national level. Massengale co-facilitated the most recent cohort of the Southern Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). She has served on various USTA Southern Committees for 16 years, as well as on various local and state committees. Massengale grew up playing tennis in New Orleans and went on to play for Yale University. A Duke Law School graduate, she is currently Associate General Counsel for Porsche Cars North America.

**Jenifer Tucker; Vice President; Fayetteville, Ark.**

Jenifer Tucker was nominated to the post of USTA Southern Vice President for the 2027-28 term. She currently serves as Vice President. At the sectional level, Tucker has served two terms on the USTA Southern Nominating Committee. She chaired the USTA Southern Adult League Committee and served on the committee for five terms. Additionally, she has served on the USTA Adult League Committee and USTA Constitution & Rules Committee. Tucker is currently serving as secretary of the Southern Tennis Foundation, after having served as Trustee of the Foundation for two terms. She has chaired the Foundation's Nominating, Scholarship and Special Events committees. A former USTA Arkansas president, she has continued to serve on the USTA Arkansas Board as a Past President. At the state level, she also serves as chair of the USTA Arkansas Adult League, Nominating and League Grievance committees and is a past chair of the By-laws Committee. She is currently on the Board of the Arkansas Tennis Patrons Foundation. At the local level, Tucker was the Northwest Arkansas Local League Coordinator for five years and has continued to be involved in Northwest Arkansas tennis.

**Carol Alan; Secretary; Sumter, S.C.**

Dr. Carol Alan was nominated for the post of USTA Southern Secretary for the 2027-28 term. She has served as Secretary for the past two years. Previously, she completed her two-year term as USTA Southern Director at Large. She has served as Vice President, two terms as Secretary, and as Presidential Appointee on the USTA South Carolina Board of Directors. Alan has served on various sectional-level task forces, including Retention and the Innovation & Growth Fund. Her service on Southern Committees includes Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Grievance, NJTL, High School/College/Tennis on Campus, and Awards. She also currently serves on the USTA National Awards and Recognition Committee. She is a Past President and Board member of the Sumter Tennis Association and currently works with the USC-Sumter Fire Ants Committee. She regularly volunteers at professional tournaments such as the Palmetto Pro Open ITF 75K Women's Tournament, the Credit One Charleston Open Media Center, and as the Lexington County Pro Classic 50K Women's tournament physician. With a strong commitment to community engagement, she has contributed to various local initiatives, including organizing outreach efforts to introduce tennis to underrepresented communities through story time tennis for Head Start centers at the Sumter County Library. In addition to her volunteer work with USTA associations, Alan serves as the assistant girls' varsity tennis head coach at Heathwood Hall **and** plays USTA League tennis. Alan is an OBGYN physician at Prisma Health Midlands in Columbia.

**Eric Schmook; Treasurer; Dunwoody, Ga.**

Eric Schmook was nominated for Treasurer for the 2027-28 term, after serving as Director at Large for the last two years. Previously, he served as USTA Georgia President, Immediate Past President and head of the Nominating Committee in 2025-26. Schmook has served on various local, district, section and national committees. A Southern volunteer for 10 years, he has held roles in the Adult League, Community Development, Junior Team Tennis and NJTL committees. Schmook remains active in local organizations as an Immediate Past President of the Atlanta Youth Tennis and Education Foundation and Board of Trustee at the Atlanta International School. A graduate of Crummer Graduate School of Business, he is currently a Managing Director at Regions Bank.

**Sara Barnett; Director at Large; Jackson, Tenn.**

Sara Barnett was nominated to serve as a USTA Southern Director at Large for the 2027–28 term. This marks her second nomination to the USTA Southern Board. She previously served a two-year term as President of USTA Tennessee following several terms on the USTA Tennessee Board as both a member at large, Secretary, and Past President. She currently serves as USTA Tennessee Legal Counsel, as a member of the Nominating Committee, and as Chair of the Adult League Committee. She is also a board member of the Ace Foundation, which is USTA Tennessee's foundation. Prior to her board service, she served on the USTA Southern Community Development Committee and the CGPG subcommittee. At the national level, she currently serves on the Community Development Committee and previously served two terms on the Awards Committee. She is the immediate Past President and a founding member of the Jackson West-Tennessee Tennis Association. She has served as a local league coordinator for more than 10 years, is a community coach teaching beginners through Play Tennessee and Rally Cats, and is an active USTA League player. She is a partner in the law firm of Spragins, Barnett & Cobb, PLC.

**Kathy Ruckstuhl; Director at Large; Lafayette, La.**

Kathy Ruckstuhl was nominated to serve on the USTA Southern Board of Directors. Ruckstuhl served as President of the USTA Acadiana Community Tennis Association from 2020-24, after serving as Vice-President and Tournament Chairman for the Adult State Championships. She has also held numerous leadership positions with USTA Louisiana, including Secretary, Vice-President, Board Liaison to the Adult League Committee, and currently serves as President. Ruckstuhl has been an active member and leader of the Louisiana tennis community. She has served on several USTA Southern committees, including the Southern Community Development Committee, Southern Community Playbook Development Task Force and Southern State President's Group. Her dedication to growing tennis and strengthening community programs has earned her numerous honors. Ruckstuhl also serves on the Lafayette City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission and remains active in Lafayette community recreation initiatives.

**RC Scheinler; Director at Large; Louisville, Ky.**

RC Scheinler was nominated to serve on the USTA Southern Board of Directors. He currently serves as Immediate Past President of USTA Kentucky and as Chair of the USTA Kentucky Nominating Committee. As a businessman, Scheinler began his career in 1996 at Cellular Sales, a Verizon franchise operator. Scheinler was a lifelong tennis player and supporter of tennis at all levels. He and his wife still play competitively, and their children grew up playing the sport and still love it today. Scheinler began as a Southern junior player, a collegiate tennis athlete, and a USTA League player. He has served as a USTA Kentucky Board Member since 2018, as Awards Chairman for seven years, on the Nominating Committee for two years, and most recently as President from 2024 to 2025. He has served as a Director for eight years at USTA Kentucky's philanthropy foundation, Raise A Racquet. He was instrumental in developing their donor profile database and website, leading the charge on the fundraising front lines. RAR has raised over \$100K each of the last two years, with funds distributed only in the state, to grow the sport by breaking down barriers and making tennis accessible to everyone.

**Ted Reese; USTA Delegate; Cary, N.C.**

Ted Reese was nominated as USTA Delegate for the 2027-28 term. He will complete his two-year term as USTA Southern President & CEO at the end of 2026. Previously, he served as USTA Southern Executive Vice President for two years and as Vice President for 2017-22. He has also served as Director at Large for the 2013-14 term. A former USTA North Carolina President and Chair of the USTA Southern Presidents Committee, Reese was also Chair of the North Carolina Nominating Committee and President and Vice President of the North Carolina Tennis Foundation. He has served nationally for 14 years, including as USTA Local Play and Competition Chair for two terms, formerly as Vice Chair and on the USTA 10 and Under and Junior Team Tennis committees. Currently, he serves as Founder and Co-Tournament Director of the Cary Tennis Classic, an award-winning USTA Pro Circuit Challenger Men's and Women's 100 ATP and WTA event at Cary Tennis Park. As a USTA High Performance and USPTA Certified Elite Professional, he has coached Junior Davis Cup, Junior Federation Cup, USTA Zonal Teams and numerous nationally ranked collegiate and professional players. In addition to his corporate roles, he has consulted as Chief Facility Designer for the national award-winning Cary Tennis Park and the UNC-Greensboro Varsity Tennis Center.

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the US Open Series linking six summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns about 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic games. A not-for-profit organization with 665,000+ members, it invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game.

It is divided into 17 sections, of which USTA Southern is the largest. The 206,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee make up USTA Southern, and account for 26.4 percent of the total USTA membership. A professional staff housed in Peachtree Corners, Ga., carries out USTA Southern's daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization's work is executed via a board and committee structure of more than 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by USTA Southern, visit [USTA.com/Southern](https://www.usta.com/Southern).

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