

Please consider this as my request to be considered for President of the USQRA.

I have been involved with our sport for four years, having started as general equipment and staff person with Lakeshore, where I continue to volunteer. That opportunity led to being selected twice as staff with Team USQRA .I was then fortunate to be asked this past year to work with Team USA.

Last year I certified as a Class "C" official and I classed up to a "B" this year. I have reffed a number of general tourneys, together with regionals, and sectionals, and was picked to ref Nationals last year and this year.

I know that this exposure to various roles within rugby gives me a wide-view of our sport. It has provided me with four years of travel, working with players, staff, coaches, refs, and volunteers....all of whom are vital to the sport. I have changed tires, picked players up off the floor, served as a pca, travelled to Argentina, sold t-shirts, cleaned floors, and promoted the sport. While I know there are others with longer experience, I doubt there is anyone with more passion for the game

I want to work for wheelchair rugby's present and for its future. This is now a mature sport, with years of competition. We have a strong base upon which to build. The only thing which would limit us would be our own lack of vision and hard work.

University of Alabama in Birmingham.....BA...1973

Cumberland School of Law.....JD...1976

Law Clerk to the Hon. J.P.Coleman, United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals...1976-1977

Practiced law in Birmingham... 1978-1992

Circuit Judge...1992-2011 ( elected three times; Presiding Judge for 15 years) (will retire January 17, 2011)

Adjunct Professor at Cumberland School of Law...1986-1992; 2004-present  
Co-author 'Family Law in Alabama' ( LexisNexis 4th ed.)

Selected 'Judge of the Year' 1997- Alabama State Bar Domestic Relation (first year award given)

Twice selected Volunteer of the Year by Shepherd's Fold (post-prison ministry)

Licensed Southern Baptist minister

Thank you,

Gary Pate ('Judge') – 205 Rockaway Road – Homewood , Alabama 35209