

ARIZONA STATE BOXING COMMISSION

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR



DENNIS R. O'CONNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DENNIS R. O'CONNELL



Executive Director Dennis O'Connell started at the Boxing Commission on September 21, 2009. Mr. O'Connell was born and raised in the Detroit area. He graduated from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield Michigan, B.S. Industrial Management with honors. He then attended Wayne State Law School where he obtained his J.D., graduating in the top 20% of his class and achieving several honors.

He began employment at Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, a large mid-west utility, where he had an extensive 30-year career with progressive case and supervisory responsibilities as General Attorney and Senior Trial Attorney. He is a member of the Michigan Bar Association and past member of the Federal Energy Bar Association and American Bar Association Administrative Law Committee. He is admitted to practice before the US District Court, ED Mich., US Court of Appeals, 10th Cir. and the US Court of Appeals, DC Cir. From 2001 – 2003 he was of counsel to a major law firm based in Lansing, MI. While residing in Michigan he was very active in boxing as an official for both the amateurs and pros. In 2002 he was appointed to the Michigan Boxing Commission by then Governor John Engler.

Dennis and his wife Pat relocated to Phoenix in July 2003. Two of his children had attended and graduated from A.S.U. so it was an easy choice to move to Arizona. While living in Phoenix he continued to be active in professional and amateur boxing locally, nationally and on an international level. In December 2005 Mr. O'Connell became an Administrative Law Judge with the Arizona Department of Transportation where he presided over contested cases until early 2009. During his tenure as an Administrative Law Judge, he completed courses at the National Judicial College in Reno, NV.

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Mr. O'Connell's boxing background is wide ranging. He was a licensed professional boxing official in Michigan beginning in 1997. After moving to Arizona he was licensed as a professional boxing judge where he had the opportunity to officiate a number of title bouts and a world championship. He has also judged over 300 MMA bouts. He is certified as both a Professional Boxing Judge and Referee by the Association of Boxing Commissions.

In terms of Olympic-style boxing experience, Mr. O'Connell has been registered and certified by USA Boxing Inc. ("USAB") since 1996 and has officiated approximately 6,000 bouts throughout the US and in Canada. He became a Master Official in 2007. He has received numerous local and national awards including: Outstanding Judge Awards at the 1999 and 2001 National Golden Gloves; Outstanding Official at the 2004 Western Olympic Trials; and, Outstanding Official at the 2009 Regional Golden Gloves in Las Vegas.

Dennis has also been very involved with the administrative side of boxing. He was the Vice-Chair of the USAB National Board of Review for 5 years and served as the Chairmen of the USAB Board of Appeals from 2001-2007. He was Vice Chairman of the Legal Commission for AIBA (Association Internationale de Boxe is the world governing body for Olympic Boxing headquartered in Lausanne Switzerland). He was named to the AIBA Appeal Commission in 2007 and was recently appointed to AIBA's Disciplinary Commission.

Mr. O'Connell states, "Serving as Executive Director of the Boxing Commission is a great fit with my passion for the sport and experience as a regulatory attorney, an Administrative Law Judge, former boxing commissioner and boxing/MMA official. Professional boxing and MMA can grow in Arizona and I am honored to have a leading role in such efforts."

