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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Derek White Nominated to Lead USTA Southern

SAVANNAH, GA RESIDENT TO ASSUME PRESIDENCY OF LARGEST SECTION IN JANUARY

ATLANTA – OCTOBER 20, 2016 – United States Tennis Association (USTA) Southern announced today that **Derek White**, of Savannah, Ga., has been nominated to serve as USTA Southern Board of Directors President & CEO for the 2017-2018 term. When elected, White would be the first African-American in the top leadership position of USTA Southern.

White has served as the USTA Southern Board of Directors Executive Vice President for the past two years. His first year on USTA Southern Board of Directors was in 2007 when he served as Secretary. In 2009, he began three two-year terms as Vice President.

A graduate of Mercer University and Georgia Southern University, White has also served as a member of the USTA Georgia Grievance Committee and the Executive Director Search Committee. He has held numerous positions at the national level. He has served on the USTA Constitution and Rules Committee, Tennis and Rules Committee and the Chair of the Grievance Committee for the 2015-16 term.



Bonnie Vandegrift, of Asheville, N.C., was nominated to the post of Executive Vice President for the same term. She has served as USTA Southern Board of Directors Vice President, starting in 2015.

The members of the USTA Southern Board of Directors will be voted on by the Southern Section's nine state associations -- Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee -- for the two-year term beginning on Jan. 20, 2017. The state associations will also vote on the candidates chosen for the USTA Southern Nominating Committee at that time. USTA Southern is the largest of the U.S. Tennis Association's 17 sections, representing nearly 25 percent of the national membership.



USTA Southern President and CEO **Paula Hale**, of Raleigh, N.C., was nominated as the USTA Delegate and Chairman of the USTA Southern Nominating Committee for the 2017-2018 term.

Here is the full list of nominees for the 2017-2018 term:

USTA Southern Board of Directors

Name	Post	Hometown
Derek White	President & CEO	Savannah, Ga.
Bonnie Vandegrift	Executive Vice President	Asheville, N.C.
Randy Jackson	Vice President	Fort Smith, Ark.
Drew Meyers	Vice President	Lafayette, La.
Ted Reese	Vice President	Holly Springs, N.C.
Brett Schwartz	Secretary	Mandeville, La.
Dennis Miller	Treasurer	Madison, Miss.
John Cox	Director at Large	Cleveland, Miss.
John Herring	Director at Large	Lexington, Ky.
Marcy Hirshberg	Director at Large	Johns Creek, Ga.
Paula Hale	USTA Delegate	Raleigh, N.C.

USTA Southern Nominating Committee

Name	Post	Hometown
Paula Hale	Chairman	Raleigh, N.C.
Jane Gamble	Member	Paducah, Ky.
Helen Martin	Member	Columbus, Ga.
Paul Pittman	Member	Florence, S.C.
Jim Warren	Member	Jackson, Miss.

Bios for the board nominees are attached. Photos are available on request.

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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 **Emirates Airline US Open Series** linking seven 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 more than 710,000 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 174,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee make up USTA Southern, and account for nearly 25 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 www.southern tennis.com.

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