



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **DESSIE SAMUELS OF TERRELL WINS RAY DELCASTILLO OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**AUSTIN, Texas** – The 2015 USTA Texas Section Ray Delcastillo Official of the Year award went to **Dessie Samuels**, for her years of dedicated officiating. Dessie was presented this award at the joint USTA Texas and USPTA Texas Division awards banquet in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

The award recognizes a USTA certified official who has contributed his/her time working to strengthen officiating in the section. As one of Texas's most acclaimed officials, and with over 30 years of experience, Dessie was a standout nominee.

She began her career in 1982 when she became a certified USTA official. Later, she was selected to officiate at Wimbledon, the Australian Open where she chaired one final, and the US Open where she chaired the final four times. Her milestones include attaining status as an ITF White, Bronze, Silver, and Gold Badged official.

Dessie also had the opportunity to represent the United States as a certified official at the Davis Cup, the Olympics, Fed Cup and many WTA Tour events. More recently, she was hired as a Women's Pro Circuit Supervisor, a full time position that keeps her flying all across the United States, running tournaments for the USTA Pro Circuit.

Her world travels are rooted in her solid, farm family, and her friendly hometown of Terrell, Texas. With Billie Jean King as her tennis hero, Dessie played on the first women's tennis team at Texas A&M. She is a proud Aggie who "bleeds maroon" and is a loyal supporter of Aggie athletics. The entire awards banquet can be viewed at the USTA Texas YouTube page.

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### **USTA Texas**

*Located in Austin, USTA Texas is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with over 52,500 individual members and over 600 organizational members. Since 1895, USTA Texas have been one of the 17 sections of the United States Tennis Association, the governing body of tennis in America. USTA Texas is the third largest of the sections and features a Pathway of tennis programs for beginning, recreational and competitive juniors, adults and seniors. With hundreds of volunteers, USTA Texas is devoted to promoting and developing the growth of tennis in Texas. For more information about USTA Texas go to [www.texas.usta.com](http://www.texas.usta.com), "like" the official USTA Texas Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ustatexas](http://www.facebook.com/ustatexas) or follow us on Twitter @USTATexas.*

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CUTLINE: (L to R): Joyce Dreslin, USTA Texas awards committee chair, Dessie Samuels, Ray Delcastillo Official of the Year Award winner and USTA Texas president Frank Kelly. Photo by Pippa Horn / USTA Texas.