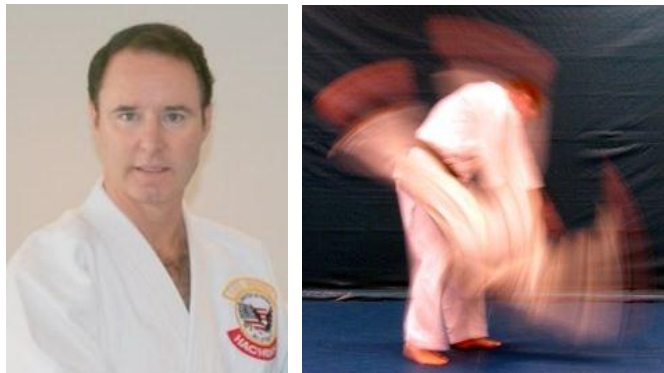


## Bruce R. Bethers

**President & CEO of United States Ju-Jitsu Federation  
North American Ju-Jitsu Union**

**Member - USJJF Board of Directors**

**Member – US Ju-Jitsu Masters Caucus**



Shihan Bruce R. Bethers is the President of the [United States Ju-Jitsu Federation](#), the [North American Ju-Jitsu Union](#), and is on the Board of Directors of the [USA Karate Federation](#) and the [World Jiu Jitsu Confederation](#). He also serves as the Secretary General of the [Martial Arts International Federation](#).

Shihan Bethers "first stepped on the mat" in 1963 at the age of 13 and began his Martial Arts training in Ju-Jitsu & Kodokan Judo under his first Instructor Shihan Sensei John J. Chaffin, Chief Instructor & Founder of the American Martial Arts Society and Sensei Koichi Kobayashi, Hirosaki, Japan Buddhist Ju-Jitsu Academy. His other important Ju-Jitsu & Judo Sensei "Mentors" were Clif Norgaard, Fred Stacey and David Wire. He was promoted to the rank of Shodan, 1st Degree Black Belt in Ju-Jitsu & Judo in 1965. He also began his Karate training in 1964 under Sensei Guy Poos. At that point in Shihan Bethers' life, he was working as a physical education instructor for the YMCA where he taught Ju-Jitsu, Karate & Judo at three different "Y" branches in Oklahoma City, OK.

He was promoted to the rank of Shodan, 1st Degree Black Belt in Karate in 1967. He began his Kendo training in 1970. He taught Martial Arts in the YMCA from 1965 to 1989, with only a four-year break due to active duty in the U.S. Army. During his college years (1968-1973), he also trained in Ching-Yi Kung Fu under Dr. Her Yue Wong & was promoted to Black Belt in Kung Fu in 1973. While serving in Europe, (1974-1977) Shihan Bethers organized the European Armed Forces Martial Arts Association. During his four-year tour of duty in Europe, the EAFMAA held many seminars & tournaments in Germany, France, England & Greece (to include the Bi-Centennial Armed Forces Karate Championships in 1976). In 1977, Shihan Bethers trained & served as the Official U.S. Armed Forces Coach for the "American Team" at the European Tae Kwon Do Championships held in Rotterdam, Holland. He trained in Tae Kwon Do under Kim Kwang IL in Stuttgart, Germany. He received his 2nd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do in 1976.

Upon his return from active duty in 1978, Shihan Bethers worked for the YMCA in Oklahoma first as a Program Director, then as Associate Executive Director in Oklahoma City, and later as the Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland County YMCA in Norman Oklahoma. In 1981, Sensei Bethers coordinated the merger of the European Armed Forces Martial Arts Association (EAFMAA) and the American Martial Arts Society (AMAS) into the United States Martial Arts Association (USMAA). The USMAA was incorporated in Oklahoma in 1981. The original USMAA is now known as the USA Martial Arts Federation, [www.usa-maf.org](http://www.usa-maf.org). During his service as CEO for the YMCA, he planned, organized & managed the largest YMCA in Oklahoma, (building a five million dollar facility with 10,000 members & 200 programs). He conducted many Martial Arts seminars & tournaments at this YMCA from 1982 through 1989. In 1989, Shihan Bethers left the YMCA to continue his military career.

From 1989-1990, Shihan Bethers organized & managed the Army National Guard Urban Warfare School, where he taught Hand-to-Hand Combat to the School's Instructors and developed the "Program of Instruction" for the Army National Guard's Urban Warfare School. From 1990 to 2003, Shihan Bethers, (now Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army Ret) served as an Army Contracting Officer. In Kuwait, during Desert Storm Operations, (after the Liberation of Kuwait) Shihan Bethers provided Martial Arts training for the U.S. Soldiers stationed at Camp Doha, Kuwait (1991-1992). Lt.

Col. Bethers' last military duty assignment was Chief of Contracting for the Nevada Army & Air National Guard. He retired from the US ARMY with 31.5 years of military service.

Shihan Bethers worked at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. (2003 - 2012) providing acquisition support with the Defense Contracting Command-Washington and the US Army Intelligence Command. He also conducts USJJF, USAKF and USMAF seminars throughout the U.S. and Internationally. In 2012 - 2013, he deployed to SW Asia as an Acquisition Consultant (with CACI) supporting the US Army.

In 2014, he retired and is now serving in the position of President & CEO for USJJF, USA-TKJ & USMAF.

Shihan Bethers holds a Bachelors Degree (B.A.) in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, a Masters of Business Administration Degree (M.B.A., with Honors) from Oklahoma City University and is a Graduate of the U.S. Army's Command & General Staff College.

Shihan Bethers' Martial Arts Organization Service and Awards:

- Executive Technical Advisor & Board Member, American Martial Arts Society (1967-1981)
- Member, Korea Yudo Academy, Seoul, Korea (1973 - Present)
- Life Member, [Ching Yi Kung Fu Association](#) (1973 - Present)
- President, U.S. European Armed Forces Martial Arts Association (1974 -1977)
- Life Member, United States Judo Association (1974 - Present)
- Member, Kodokan Institute, Tokyo, Japan (1975 - Present)
- Member, International Tae Kwon Do Federation (1977 - Present)
- U.S. Coach for the "American Team", 1977 ITF Tae Kwon Do Championships, Rotterdam
- President, Oklahoma Judo Association (USJI) (1978 -1981)
- President & CEO, United States Martial Arts Association (USMAA) (1981-1997)
- President, Shihan-Ryu Institute International (1997 - Present)
- Member, Kwanmukan International (1998 - Present)
- USA Senior Delegate, 1998 JJIF World Championships, Berlin, Germany
- President, [United States Martial Arts Federation](#) (USMAF) (1999 - 2001)
- President, [United States Ju-Jitsu Federation](#) (USJJF) (1999 - Present)
- JJIF Continental Class Fighting System & DUO System Referee, (1999 - Present)
- USA Senior Delegate and Referee, JJIF / EJJU European Championships (1999)
- Life Member & Western Region Representative, [USA Karate Federation](#) (1999 - Present)
- Silver Life Member, [United States Ju-Jitsu Federation](#) (USJJF) (1998 - Present)
- Secretary General, [Martial Arts International Federation](#) (MAIF) (1998 - Present)
- Board of Directors, Nevada Judo Association (1999 - Present)
- Life Member, Central Tae Kwon Do Association of the USA (1999 - Present)
- President, North American Ju-Jitsu Union (NJJAU) (1999 - Present)
- Director, JJIF / JJNAU North American Championships, Akron, Ohio, USA, (2000)
- Director, US JU-JITSU Jr. & Sr. National Championships, Akron, Ohio, USA (2000, 2001, 2002)
- National Director, USJJF National Training Camps, (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006)
- USA Senior Delegate, JJIF - World Ju-Jitsu Congress, (Berlin-1998, Paris-2000, Hamburg-2001, Barcelona-2002, Madrid-2004, Rotterdam-2006)
- Life Member, Korean Martial Arts Instructor Association (2000 - Present)
- USA Senior Delegate and Referee, JJIF World Championships, Copenhagen, Denmark (2000)
- USA Senior Ju-Jitsu Delegate, 6th World Games, Akita, Japan (2001)
- USA Senior Delegate, JJIF World Championships, Uruguay (2002)
- Recipient of the "Sadaki Nakabayashi Award" for Technical Excellence by USJJF (2003)
- USA Senior Delegate, JJIF World Championships, Spain (2004)
- Vice President, Pan American Ju-Jitsu Union, (PAJJU), (2004 - 2014)
- Recipient of the "National Leadership Excellence Award" for conducting Multiple Training Symposiums across the USA (2005)
- USA Senior Delegate, JJIF World Championships, Netherlands (2006)
- USA Senior Delegate, US Ju-Jitsu Friendship Tour to France (2006)
- USA Senior Delegate, JJIF World Championships, Sweden (2008)
- USJJF Sensei of the Year for 1999 & 2009

- International Ju-Jitsu Referee, 1st Asian Martial Arts Games in Bangkok, Thailand - sanctioned by Olympic Council of Asia (2009)
- Secretary General, World Judo Federation (2011 - Present)
- Secretary General, [World Jiu Jitsu Confederation](#) (2013 - Present)

Shihan Bethers' Current Martial Art Ranks:

- Hachidan, (8th Degree Black Belt) in US Ju-Jitsu, USJJF
- Hachidan, (8th Degree Black Belt), World Ju-Jitsu Federation (WJJF), World Jiu Jitsu Confederation (WJJC), Kwanmukan International (KMK) & Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF)
- Hachidan, (8th Degree Black Belt) in Kito Ryu Ju-Jitsu, Hirosaki Ju-Jitsu Academy, Japan
- Hachidan, (8th Degree Black Belt) in Karate-Do, USAKF & USMAF
- Hachidan, (8th Degree Black Belt) in Traditional Kodokan Judo, USA-TKJ, PJU, WJF & MAIF
- Shichidan, (7th Degree Black Belt) in Tenshin Shinyo Ryu Ju-Jitsu, Hirosaki Ju-Jitsu Academy
- 8th Dan, Tae Kwon Do, Central Tae Kwon Do Association of the USA (CTA-USA)
- Godan, (5th Degree Black Belt) in Kendo, USMAF & MAIF
- Black Belt, Ching Yi Kung Fu Association (CYKFA)

Shihan Bethers can be contacted at the following address:

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