

Doug LaSota was first introduced to horses at the age of 12 while living in Colorado. His sister convinced their parents to buy her a horse and naturally (just like any one of us sitting in this room tonight), Doug thought it was only fair that if his sister got a horse, then he should have one as well. His father had a great eye for finding good, inexpensive grade horses that the family could show at open shows in the area.

It turns out that Doug was a natural with horses from early on. He learned how to train the family's horses for the show ring and they all had success with them. Doug worked with Larry Miller (who was an AQHA judge) early in his career. He would put lots of miles on Larry's young horses just so they could get out and walk and trot thru the fields at home and in return, Larry taught Doug how to show horses and how to work with them. Larry also took him to training seminars, and in his free time, Doug studied a lot of books and magazines to learn as much about horses as he could.

The horses were shared by the family, Doug's mother & father showed along with both of his sisters and his brother. Doug did all the classes – from halter and showmanship to the English and Western classes. He even learned how to calf rope. After the end of every show, Doug and his siblings would approach the judge and thank him or her for judging them and would then politely ask how they could improve upon their performances that day.

One of Doug's favorite memories of showing his horse in Colorado was when he showed his \$200 half Morgan mare to a high point over and expensive Quarter Horse. That expensive Quarter Horse was shown by the "Marlboro Man's" son, who also went on to be the Marlboro Man as an adult and now runs the huge T-Cross Ranch in Colorado. Not long after that show, Doug and his family "graduated" to owning and showing AQHA registered horses.

Doug's father was an Air Force Officer so the family moved around a lot when he was a child, including spending 3 years in Japan. His mom worked full-time as a registered nurse, while raising 4 kids and then later showing horses with the family. Doug's parents were great influences for him and his siblings. They taught their children the value of hard work and taught them to set their goals and then working to accomplish those goals. They also taught their children the value of having fun with their horses as well as how to be a good parent. But one of the most important things that Doug's parents taught their children was the value of seeking a higher education, as they both got their master's degrees while in their 30's.

Doug took the lessons of higher education and hard work to heart when he finished his 4 year college degree in just under 2 years by working hard and long hours. Doug took the double the number of classes each semester as well as taking classes during the summer. He graduated as valedictorian and Summa Cum Laude at the end of those 2 years.

He followed earning his 4 year degree by enrolling in the law school at the Arizona State University at just 19 years old – the youngest person ever to enroll there! Doug worked as a prosecutor intern while in law school and tried 5 felony trials. After he passed the bar exam, he worked as an Assistant City Prosecutor and then did some public defender's work. Doug then opened up his own law firm for 25 years. During this time, he discovered that he enjoyed working with and helping the unfortunate and he served the city of Phoenix for many years by doing extensive Pro Bono Work and donating over 2,000 hours of free legal advice and representation to the poor, disabled and to women who were victims of domestic violence. Doug became a part time judge in 2002 and for the next 7 years, he worked in 4 separate court systems as Judge Pro Tem. He became the Presiding Judge for the Cottonwood Municipal Court in 2009, where he is well respected as a judge. He was unanimously re-appointed to his current term in office.

Doug's horse judging career started at an early age. As a 4-H member in Bexar County, Texas, he competed for and won a position on the county's horse judging team. The team then competed at the Texas State 4-H Championship Competition where they won the Reserve Title. After that, Doug started to get judging jobs for open shows in the San Antonio area at the ripe old age of 16!

At the age of 18, he decided to sit for his Pinto Judges Card. Normally an association like this won't take a judge at such a young age, but Doug passed his exam with flying colors and they accepted him as a judge, making him the youngest judge ever to be accepted by the Pinto Association.

He became an IBHA judge in 1981 and today he holds judge's cards from 9 different breed associations. Doug has been fortunate to judge 15 National or World Shows in his career, and in addition to judging in the United States, he has judged in Canada, Mexico and Germany. Doug said that one of his favorite shows that he ever judged was the IBHA World Show in 2009.

Doug has owned & Exhibited 21 IBHA horses in his career. The horses that he has owned and exhibited have won an impressive 50+ World & Reserve World Championships in the IBHA, ABRA, Appaloosa & Pinto Horse Associations. His horses have won 18 Superior Awards, 32 IBHA National Honor Roll Titles, 2 Honor Roll All Around Titles and 2 Honor Roll High Point

Performance Horse Titles. At one point in his career, he won the IBHA World Championship 12 unprecedented years in a row in Dun Factor with Smooth Swen Miss and Foolish Brandy Bar – each mare winning 6 World Titles. Doug enjoyed showing horses with his son Christopher, who also did well in the show ring by earning 9 World titles himself.

The IBHA Supreme Championship is earned when a horse earns 30 points in Dun Factor, 30 points in Halter, and 30 points in Performance Under Saddle Classes. This is not necessarily an easy Title for a horse to earn and in the 48 year history of IBHA, only 61 horses have ever earned the coveted title of IBHA Supreme Champion.

Leona Eclipse, Smooth Swen Miss, Heza Dun Buck, Supreme Impress, Hes Dun It and Ms Beau Rinski were all horses that were either owned or exhibited by Doug and all 6 of these horses earned the title of IBHA Supreme Champion.

Doug is a lifetime member of IBHA and has a long history of serving not only the Arizona Buckskin Horse Association, but also IBHA. He is the Arizona Buckskin Horse Association Charter delegate and has served in that role since 1992. He was the president of the club from 1992 to 1998 and after taking a short break from that position, he has served as president since 2002.

Doug was appointed as the IBHA Director of Rules at the 2009 Convention, replacing Dwayne Elkins when he resigned. He was happy to be appointed to this role so he could serve IBHA even better by contributing his knowledge and experience to make sure the rules are done properly and in the best interest of IBHA.

He has chaired the Charter Delegate Committee Meetings since 2008. Doug's work as the IBHA Director of Rules has been extensive and busy. He attends all the Committee workshops and works with the various committees to make sure new rules are implemented correctly. He has worked extensively with the show and contest committee when it comes to clarifying the rulebook. As a sidenote, Doug is a member of 12 different breed associations and does bring the rulebooks for all these breed associations to the IBHA convention so he can share with committee members what other associations have for particular rules.

Doug is responsible for reviewing all rule proposals that come into the IBHA office. As the IBHA Director of rules, Doug has been very instrumental with helping to develop & clarifying the rules for the Leadline Classes, The Youth 5-11 Walk Trot Division, The Miniature Horse Division, The Ranch Horse Division, the Amateur-Select Division and the newly formed Adult Walk Trot Division. He is proud of his work with the IBHA committees and helping to set up these new

divisions and writing the rules for them as these new divisions give more people the opportunity to show at IBHA shows as well as contributing to the growth of IBHA as a whole and the IBHA Charter clubs.

Doug currently makes his home in Phoenix, AZ, but he also resides in Cottonwood, AZ during the week as that is where works as a judge. He is a devoted husband and father, and married his wife Olga, who is in attendance tonight, in 2011 when she moved to Arizona from the Ukraine. Doug has two step children, Alisa & Renat whom he loves and treats as his own children (and therefore, being the “father that he didn’t have to be”. Alisa will be graduating from the Honors College at Arizona State University this coming May, and just yesterday she became a naturalized United States Citizen. Renat will be moving from the Ukraine to live with Doug full time this summer. Sadly, Doug’s own son, Christopher, passed away in 2003.

Currently, Doug does not own any horses. His judicial duties are too extensive and he has to live and work over 2 hours away from his home in Phoenix. Sadly, this schedule does not leave enough time for caring for horses at his Phoenix home. Although my gut feeling is that it would be a sure bet that once Doug retires from his judicial duties that a horse or two will be a part of his life once again.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the 2018 IBHA Hall of Fame inductee, Douglas LaSota, along with his two impressive mares, Leona Eclipse and Smooth Swen Miss.