




# The Zen Judo Family Tree



**JAPAN**  
 1156 to 1526 The Samurai become the influential class in Japan, exercising political control. They studied the code of Bushido and fighting techniques.  
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 1598 to 1881 Jujitsu developed as a means of unarmed combat, with many styles and techniques.

**The Butokukai**  
 Great Japan Martial Virtues Association  
 (Founded in 1895 for the study and teaching of all Japanese Samurai arts)

**Dr. Jigoro Kano (1860 to 1938)**  
 (Founder of Kodokan Judo)  
 (Founded the Kodokan in Tokyo 1882)  
 Studied with a number of Jujitsu masters before formulating his own system of unarmed combat which he called Judo.




**Kenshiro Abbe 7<sup>th</sup>. Dan (1915 to 1985)**  
 And **Bill Woods 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dan**  
 (Founded the British Judo Council 1958)

**Masutaro Otani 8<sup>th</sup>. Dan (1896 to 1977)**  
 (1926 Assistant Instructor to Yukio Tani)  
 (Founded the M.O.S.J in 1954)

**Yukio Tani 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dan (1881 to 1950)**  
 (Founder of British Judo)  
 (Chief Instructor at the Budokwai 1920)

**Gunji Koizumi 8<sup>th</sup>. Dan (1885 to 1965)**  
 (Founded the London Budokwai in 1918)

**Kenshiro Abbe 7<sup>th</sup>. Dan**  
 (Founded Kyu Shin Do)



1970  
 M.O.S.J and The British Judo Council  
 Amalgamate under Masutaro Otani 8<sup>th</sup>. Dan

British Judo Association formed 1948  
 (President Gunji Koizumi)

European Judo Union formed 1948  
 (Chairman Trevor Legget 7<sup>th</sup>. Dan)

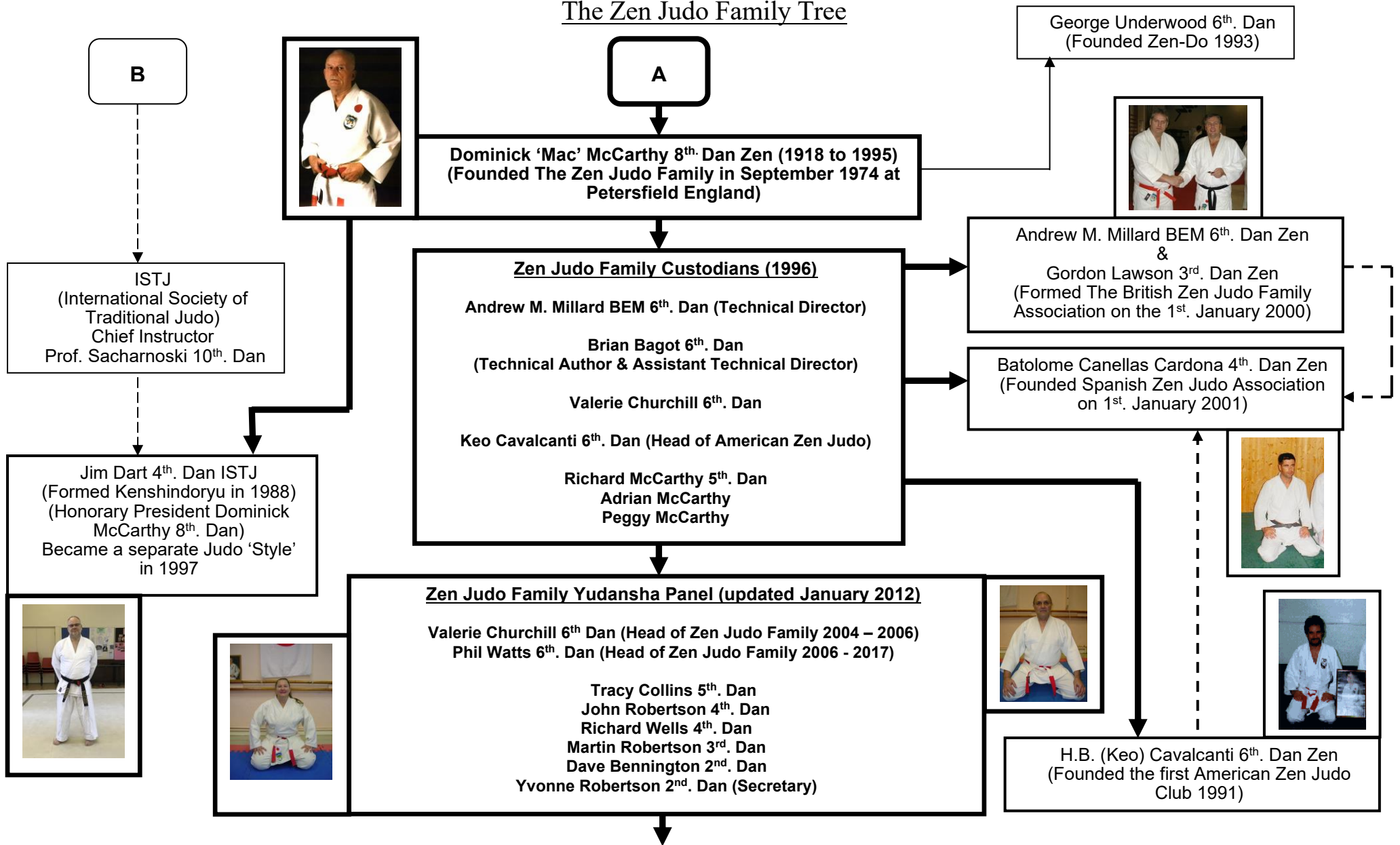
International Judo Federation formed 1952

1964 Introduction of Judo into the Olympic Games

**B**

**A**

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### Zen Judo Family Yudansha Panel (updated October 2024)

John Robertson 6<sup>th</sup>. Dan (Head of Zen Judo Family 2017) 6<sup>th</sup>. Dan BZJFA

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Martin Robertson 5<sup>th</sup>. Dan

Yvonne Robertson 5<sup>th</sup>. Dan (Secretary)

Richard McCarthy 5<sup>th</sup>. Dan

Dave Bennington 4<sup>th</sup>. Dan

Jim Dart 4<sup>th</sup> Dan (Technical Advisor)

Mike Healy 5<sup>th</sup>. Dan (Retired)

