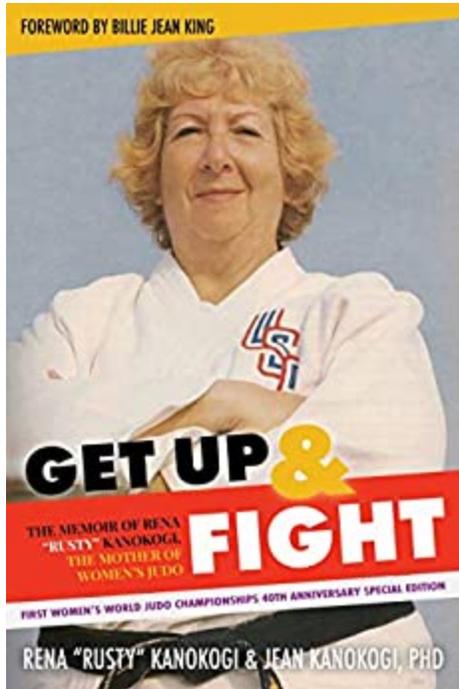


Jean Kanokogi, Meet the Author, Exhibit Hall, WIFLE Annual Leadership Training



[GET UP AND FIGHT, The Memoir of Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi](#)

The Mother of Women's Judo was "Rusty" Kanokogi. She fought for equality in Judo and in other sports her entire life. She was a pioneer, a fearless competitor, a staunch supporter of women in sports, and almost single-handedly got the Olympic Committee to recognize Women's Judo as an Olympic sport. Judo was first included in the Summer Olympic Games at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, Japan. After not being included in 1968, judo has been an Olympic sport in each Olympiad since then. Only male judoka participated until the 1988 Summer Olympics, when women participated as a demonstration sport. Women judoka were first awarded medals at the 1992 Summer Olympics.

"In 1959 Rusty's well-earned first place medal was ripped away from her because she was a woman. She fought in a judo championship against a man and won, but when the judges discovered her gender, they stripped her of her title. Women were not allowed. From that point on, Rusty had a new goal: to ensure that no woman would ever suffer such an indignity ever again! This vow sparked a fifty-year career fighting for equality—a tireless battle she would take all the way to the Olympics. In her uniquely raw, unfiltered, humorous voice, Rusty recounts the tales of her remarkable life and journey from the rough streets of Coney Island, Brooklyn, to the offices of the political, powerful and persuasive, where she established herself as a major force in the world of women's rights and the sport of judo, securing women's inclusion on the international stage. Rusty's memoir is a love story filled with passion and righteousness—for her sport, her family, and her way of life as a judoka. Often called a pioneer, Rusty was an unsung hero in the fight to give women voice and agency, in life and in sports. She did not see human limitations, only possibilities. The establishment told her "no," but "no" was not a part of her vocabulary. Instead, Rusty fought like hell, and won. In her own words, Rusty decided to "be the hammer," not the nail."

ABOUT JEAN KANOKOGI, Ph.D., THE DAUGHTER/AUTHOR

Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D. is a Senior Special Agent for the U.S. Government with extensive experience in conducting criminal investigations. With a career spanning 23 years in law enforcement, Jean has been the lead investigator on several high-profile cases, including the attacks on 9/11 and many that focus on



protecting public health. She is a subject matter expert in cognitive interviews, defensive tactics, firearms safety and engagement and defensive tactics.

Jean is a fifth-degree black belt in judo and a highly respected sensei. She was on the U.S. national judo team, now known as USA Judo, and won several medals in international tournaments. Most notably, Jean was one of the original signers of the American Civil Liberty Union suit to fight for women's rights in the sport of judo.

Jean is the co-author of her mother's story, *Get Up & Fight: The Memoir of Rusty Kanokogi, The Mother of Women's Judo.*

She has authored numerous mental health and law enforcement related articles in various professional publications and also publishes a column in the *Eighteen Eleven*, the professional journal of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), with a readership of over 36,000. One of her treasured experiences includes consulting on the television program *Law and Order, Special Victim's Unit*.

She dedicates her time as a volunteer for the FLEOA where she is the Director of Mental Health and Peer Support Services. In this monumental role, she is building a peer support program to support the mental health of the federal law enforcement community. Additionally, this role allows her to comment on bipartisan bills that directly impact the mental health of law enforcement officers.

Additional philanthropic work includes mentoring high-risk youths and serving on the evaluation committee for the Rusty Kanokogi Fund for the Advancement of US Judo. Managed by the Women's Sports Foundation, this annual scholarship provides financial support for women in judo nationwide who are training for national and international competition.

Jean holds a B.S. and M.A. from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and earned her Ph.D. in the study of psychology in 2018, where she published her dissertation, entitled, "The Interrogation Experiences that Transition Novices from Beginners to Experts." Her tenacity and courage to continue to deliver on positively impacting societal behaviors is truly an inspiration for all.

Interview with Jean on Good Morning America,

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/culture/video/book-pays-tribute-mother-womens-judo-78192335?fbclid=IwAR3U3IJVEckQq2i7DQqNcyWQGAtRB7ejPZZHIZIP6OaAeBDa3N654rdzQiQ>