

Ambassador Donald Burnham Ensenat

Ambassador Ensenat was born and raised in New Orleans. He received degrees from Yale University (B.A., 1968) and Tulane University School of Law (J.D., 1973).

In addition to an active law practice (Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP) in New Orleans since 1974, he has served in the federal and state governments on five previous assignments:

- (1) In 1969-70, he was Legislative Assistant to Congressman. Hale Boggs, the Majority Whip (and later Majority Leader) of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- (2) From 1973 to 1974, he was Congresswoman Lindy Boggs' first Legislative Assistant after election to her husband's seat following his untimely death in an Alaska air crash.
- (3) From 1975-1980, he served as Assistant Attorney General of Louisiana in charge of federal court and Louisiana Supreme Court litigation for the state.
- (4) In 1989, President George Bush appointed him, with Senate confirmation, to the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the sister federal financial institution to the Export-Import Bank.
- (5) In 1992, President Bush nominated and the Senate confirmed him as U.S. Ambassador to Brunei, the wealthy sultanate in South East Asia that is a small but influential member of the South East Asian political grouping ASEAN, and of APEC, the economic forum of the Pacific Rim nations.

Ambassador Ensenat has also been active in his community. He is a past President and Chairman of the 2200-member World Trade Center of New Orleans, the original of now over 300 World Trade Centers around the world. He has served on its Board of Directors since 1988 and on its Executive Committee since 1990. Other civic activities include the Council of American Ambassadors; Asia Society, Yale Alumni Association of Louisiana (president, 1985-1987; chair, Admissions Committee, 1988-present), New Orleans Museum of Art, Friends of the Cabildo (La. State Museum), Friends of the Zoo.

Most recently, Mr. Ensenat took a 2-year leave of absence from his law firm to serve his longtime friend, George W. Bush, as Louisiana Chair of, first, the Bush for President primary campaign and, then, the Bush-Cheney general election campaign. He also served on President George W. Bush's Transition Team and Inaugural Committee.

Ambassador Ensenat is married to the former Taylor Harding of Greenville, MS. They have two children, a daughter, Farish, who is a senior at the Cornell Hotel School, and a son, Will, who is a high school junior.