



Ambassadorial Insights
Winter 2007

Panama–U.S. Relations

His Excellency

Federico A. Humbert Arias

Panamanian ambassador to the U.S.

Wednesday, 14 March
NOON
238 HRCB

Federico A. Humbert Arias was sworn in as ambassador in 2004. Humbert was born in Panama City, Panama. When appointed by President Martín Torrijos, Humbert set a number of important objectives to address Panama's political, socio-economic, and security concerns. These objectives specifically include the signing and passing of a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, the promotion of investments, tourism, and retirement in Panama, and expanding relations with NGOs in order to obtain more funding in the areas of education, health, and professional training. He has also promoted the Panama Canal expansion project and increasing security cooperation between the United States and Panama. Prior to his appointment, Humbert was president of *La Prensa*, the newspaper with the highest circulation in Panama, and a key contributor in the reestablishment of Panamanian democracy after two decades of dictatorship. During his tenure as president, Humbert implemented a successful reengineering of the company and in 2003, under his leadership, the editorial house launched a second publication that has been extremely successful. From 1996 to 2002 he served on the board of directors of the editorial house. For twenty-two years he served as CEO of the Pearl Island Seafood Corporation, a major seafood processing plant, and of the Pearl Island Materials Corporation (1982–2004). He also served as CEO of the Industrial Fishery Corporation and the Panama Trucking Corporation, Inc (1990–2004). Beyond his business ventures, Humbert is a member of the Young Presidents' Organization, an international organization of global leaders that focuses on education and idea exchange. Humbert received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame (1982), and a degree from the Top Management Program of INCAE, a nonprofit, multinational, higher education organization with strong ties to Harvard Business School (1983). He and his wife, Daphne, are the parents of four children.