

Brian F. Fontes, Ph.D.

Brian Fontes served as Chief Executive Officer of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) from June 2008 until his retirement in July 2025. Under his leadership, the organization was dedicated to ensuring that Americans have access to dependable 9-1-1 services, advocating for 9-1-1 centers to be equipped with cutting-edge technology, and that emergency personnel receive best-in-class training, and securing funding for Next Generation 9-1-1.

Before joining NENA, Fontes was Vice President of Federal Relations for Cingular Wireless, continuing in that role following its merger with AT&T. Prior to that, he served as Senior Vice President of Policy and Administration at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA). Fontes also served as Senior Advisor to Commissioner James H. Quello at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), where he held the role of Chief of Staff. Fontes began his career as a Professor of Communications at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Fontes was appointed by President Clinton as Ambassador and head of the U.S. Delegation to the International Telecommunication Union's World Radio Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. He also served as Chairman of the Council for the Communications Regulatory Agency in Bosnia-Herzegovina and has represented the U.S. in numerous international delegations. He is currently a member of the NG911 Institute Board of Directors and recently stepped down after 25 years as Advisory Board Chair of the Michigan State Quello Center for Telecommunication Management, Policy, and Law.

Fontes earned his Ph.D. in Mass Media/Telecommunications from Michigan State University's Department of Telecommunications.