



**Biography of Mr. Jérôme de Bontin**

A- Professional biography:

Mr. Jérôme de Bontin is Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mékar Financial Services, an Asset Management and Investment Advisory firm and of its Broker/Dealer subsidiary Sustainability Investments, L.L.C (SILLC).

SILLC specializes in the application of Sustainability principles to the field of Asset Management. As such, the firm promotes and sponsors Sustainability investment funds to Governments, Corporations and Institutional Investors. Mr. de Bontin (pictured above at right with fellow Rush BOD Gerard Houllier) is presently registered with the US Security Exchange Commission as a General Securities and Financial Operations Principal. Mr. de Bontin is also the founder and principal of Aegis Property Management that focuses on the redevelopment of Taos Ski Valley, in New-Mexico.

Before founding Mékar and SILLC in January 1998, Mr. de Bontin was President and CEO of Crédit Agricole Futures, a French subsidiary of one of the world's largest banks and a pioneer in Trading Advisors and Hedge Fund investments. Prior to his work at Crédit Agricole Futures, Mr. de Bontin was Bank Direktor at CA Global Futures AG in Vienna, a joint venture between Austria's then largest bank Creditanstalt Bankverein and the Chicago based brokerage firm of Rodman & Renshaw and was instrumental in the development of Eastern European and Austrian derivative markets.

Previous to creating CA Global, Mr. de Bontin worked as Vice President in the Financial Futures Division of Drexel, Burnham, Lambert, opening its Paris office and working in both of its New York and Chicago offices before becoming Managing Director of the Financial Futures division at Rodman & Renshaw of Chicago.

He was also co-author of *Les Marchés à Terme d'Instruments Financiers (The Futures Market)* in 1985 and collaborated in the publication of *Les Options de Change* in 1986 (translated into English

as Currency Options in 1992 by the Dow-Jones Corporation).

A native of France, Mr. de Bontin is an American citizen residing with his wife and three children in suburban Chicago. He graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1981 with a degree in Economics and has lectured on Financial Futures, Alternative Investments and Sustainability at several European Universities and such highly regarded institutions as the Banque de France, France's "Hautes Etudes Commerciales", the Swiss Futures Association and the Monaco Monetary Authorities.

Mr. de Bontin was a member of the Young Presidents Organization.

Mr. de Bontin is a member of the National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

#### B- Soccer Biography:

Mr. de Bontin joined the US Soccer Federation Foundation as a Trustee of its Investment Committee in the spring of 1998. He subsequently joined the Board in early 2000, then the Executive Board a few years later. Mr. de Bontin also served as the Chair of the Development Committee between 2005 and 2007.

Still an active Trustee today, one of Mr. de Bontin's main contributions to the Foundation programs included the 2005 Banquet in Washington DC and refocusing some of the grants to inner city programs in Washington DC and Chicago. Mr. de Bontin presently serves on the US Soccer Foundation's Chicago Leadership Council.

Mr. de Bontin has been an active member of the US Soccer Federation Task Force on Player Development since 2006. The Task Force was in part responsible for the introduction of the US Soccer Federation's Academy program and it continues to focus today on improving the Federation's program for player development and coaching education.

Mr. de Bontin has been a Director of the Rush Soccer Organization since the spring of 2009. He is playing an active role in promoting cross-border relationships to help domestic clubs learn from European counterparts. He is also contributing to the development of youth programs in New-Mexico.

Mr. de Bontin is a member of the NSCAA and lectured on European Developmental Academies at the 2010 Convention in Philadelphia.

Mr. de Bontin was President of AS Monaco from early 2008 to the spring of 2009 after serving as a Board Member for seven years.

AS Monaco is one of France premier club in terms of performance ( 7 times champion of France and 2 times European Cup and Champions League finalist) and also in regards to player development (former players include Thierry Henry, Raphael Marquez and Jurgen Klinsmann

among others).

Mr. de Bontin plays soccer regularly himself. He held many US youth coaching licenses during the past twenty years as well as officiating/refereeing certifications. He has coached and refereed boys' and girls' teams, U-8 through U-19 since the early 1990's.

A passionate lover of the game, Mr. de Bontin maintains an extensive network of relationships among national team players, coaches, federation officials and club presidents throughout the world.