

**American University Washington College of Law
and the
College of Arts and Sciences**

Cordially invite you to the lecture

"The Referendum"

by the award-winning , Chilean author and former diplomat

Antonio Skármeta

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

5:30-6:30 p.m.

(Reception following)

This lecture is based on Mr. Skármeta's comedy on the
1988 Chilean plebiscite:
El Plebiscito o Como derrotar a un dictador con poesía
(*The Plebiscite or How to Defeat a Dictator through Poetry*)

Mr. Skármeta's 1985 novel *Ardiente paciencia* inspired the 1994
Academy Award-winning movie, *Il Postino (The Postman)*

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW
4801 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW
6TH FLOOR STUDENT LOUNGE
WASHINGTON, DC 20016

To register for the event, visit the link below:

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Antonio Skármeta is a Chilean author, born November 7, 1940 in Antofagasta, Chile. His 1985 novel *Ardiente paciencia* inspired the 1994 Academy Award-winning movie, *Il Postino* (*The Postman*). Subsequent editions of the book bore the title "*El cartero de Neruda*" (*The Postman*). His fiction has since received dozens of awards and has been translated into nearly 30 languages worldwide. Most recently, Mr. Skármeta won the prestigious 2003 Planeta Prize in Spain for "*El baile de la Victoria*" (*The Dancer and the Thief*). Mr. Skármeta studied philosophy and literature both in Chile and at Columbia University in New York. From 1967 to 1973, the year he left Chile (first to Buenos Aires and later to West Berlin), he taught literature at the University of Chile. In 1989, after the collapse of Pinochet's military dictatorship, Mr. Skármeta returned to Chile in order "to create political space for freedom." He hosted a television program on literature and the arts, that regularly attracted over one million viewers. Mr. Skármeta frequently teaches classes for the Colorado College both in Santiago and in Colorado Springs. He is the grandson of immigrants from the Dalmatian region of Croatia.