

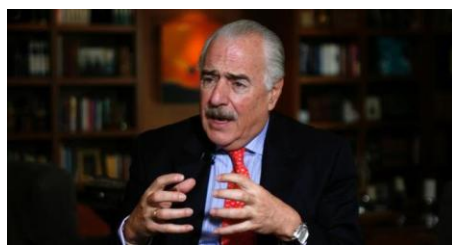
ANDRES PASTRANA

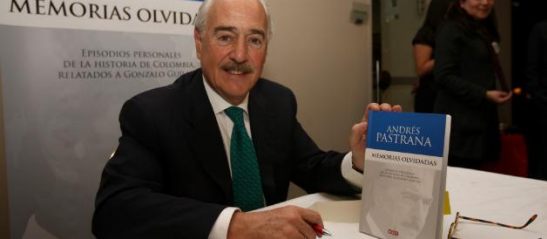
Former President of Colombia
(1998-2002)

CONFERENCIANTES **BCC**
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Andrés Pastrana was the President of Colombia from 1998 to 2002, following in the footsteps of his father, Misael Pastrana who was president from 1970 to 1974.

He obtained a degree in law at Our Lady of the Rosary University in 1977. After obtaining a postgraduate at Harvard in the United States, he returned to Colombia. In 1982 he formally began his political career gaining a seat on the local Bogotá council. He also specialized in press articles on the production and trafficking of cocaine, for which he gained many journalistic awards. In 1991 he was elected Senator.





His presidency is remembered first for his negotiations with the two left-wing guerrilla groups FARC and ELN, culminating in the grant of a demilitarized safe haven to the guerrillas the size of Switzerland, and second for his breaking off said negotiations. He is also remembered for a growing degree of unpopularity in polls as his term progressed. His administration proposed and initially oversaw the implementation of the controversial Plan Colombia aid package and anti-drug strategy.

In 2005 President Álvaro Uribe Velez, offered the former president the post of Ambassador to the United States in Washington DC. However, after consulting his family and political supporters, he resigned in July 2006 and returned to Colombia and Samper and rejected the appointment.

Andrés Pastrana is a charismatic man and a good speaker. He has received numerous international awards and journalistic prizes in Spain and Colombia.

Topics

- Latin America
- **Development of democracy**
- Communication from the Government
- **Dialogue with the FARC**
- Fight against drug trafficking
- **Economic Growth**

