



# RICARDO D. GARCIA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

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Ricardo D. García currently serves as Los Angeles County's Chief Public Defender, the oldest and largest public defender agency in the United States. Born in Los Angeles to immigrant parents from Mexico, Mr. García is the oldest of seven children and the first-generation college graduate. He received his Juris Doctorate in 1995 from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, and his Bachelor of Art in Politics in 1991 at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He began his legal career in 1995 with the San Diego Public Defender's Office. Mr. Garcia is known as a noteworthy leader in the field of criminal defense. He has handled several high-profile cases in the San Diego County Public Defender's Office, including the longest and most complicated death penalty trial in state history, and was awarded Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Criminal Defense Association of San Diego. In addition to his work in the courtroom, Mr. Garcia served as an adjunct professor at California Western School of Law and as the Criminal Justice Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. Mr. Garcia serves as the first Latinx Public Defender in Los Angeles County history and was recently awarded the Hispanic Heritage Award by the Honorable Supervisor Hilda Solis and the Leadership Award from the Los Angeles County Hispanic Managers Association. In 2020, Mr. Garcia launched the Strategic Initiative Plan, which implemented the department's first strategic plan in over two decades. Mr. García is a strong advocate in the fabric of the community and able to communicate his ideas to others to ensure justice reform within our black and brown communities.