

The son of immigrant parents who inculcated in him the importance of honest hard work, Rodolfo “Rudy” S. Monterrosa, Jr. grew up in California where at age 15, he participated in the third annual [Inland Empire Future Leaders Program](#). This incomparable experience greatly impressed upon Rudy a strong sense of cultural pride and motivation. His upbringing and this experience laid a foundation of love, respect, and responsibility to family and community. This underpinning led him to a series of community involvement and a trail of realized dreams and successes.

Monterrosa graduated from Bloomington High School in Bloomington, CA, and attended Stanford University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1995. He was admitted to University of Notre Dame School of Law (ND School of Law) where his Juris Doctor degree was conferred in 2001. While in law school, Monterrosa was president of the Student Bar Association and extern for the University of Notre Dame Public Defender Program.

During summer and winter breaks, he gained experience in researching and drafting motions and briefs for real-life cases while serving as a law clerk for the Office of the District Attorney in San Bernardino, CA, and later for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Reno, Nevada. His research included issues that dealt with major crimes against children, major drug crimes, conspiracy, white-collar crime, search and seizure, and jury misconduct. He also inventoried evidence and assisted with charges concerning one of the largest cases in San Bernardino County and participated in a major trial involving child abuse and torture.

In addition, Monterrosa volunteered with the local legal aid clinic while in San Bernardino and interned in South Bend, Indiana at the University of Notre Dame Immigration Clinic. His diligence and externship with the ND Public Defender Program led to his continued work with the office beyond graduation.

Monterrosa established his private practice in South Bend promptly after graduating and has practiced criminal, immigration, personal injury, and family law in South Bend since 2001. For more than seventeen years, he served as one of only three bilingual deputy public defenders and acted as the supervising attorney for St. Joseph County in Indiana. He has represented clients throughout

Indiana with misdemeanor and felony cases at both the state and federal levels. He has also represented clients throughout the U.S. with immigration cases in all stages of proceedings including, but not limited to, family petitions and deportation hearings. In 2015, Monterrosa elevated his private practice by establishing the Monterrosa Law Group. Committed as he may be to his work, his commitment to community has been conserved.

In 2015, Monterrosa became adjunct professor of law at ND School of Law where he teaches a course on immigration and nationality laws and co-teaches the Public Defender externship. He served as President of the Board of Directors for La Casa de Amistad Youth and Community Center in South Bend and was a board member of Hispanic Alumni Board of Notre Dame from 2006-2012 and the Notre Dame Diversity Council.

Additionally, he was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court Race and Gender Fairness Commission and serves on a national level with the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Hispanic Rights and Responsibilities.

Most beloved for the impact it had on his own life, Monterrosa continues to participate in the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program. However, he now joins the program as a mentor instead of a mentee and deeply enjoys inspiring today's youth and future leaders, continuing to serve as an active presenter and board member.

In 2009, Notre Dame Hispanic Law Student Association honored Monterrosa with the prestigious Graciela Olivarez Award, presented to a Hispanic lawyer or judge that demonstrates a "commitment to community service and high ethical and moral standards." He was chosen as a Michiana Chamber of Commerce 40 under 40 class of 2011, a recognition of the "area's most talented and dedicated young executives, professionals and leaders who demonstrate career success and community engagement."

Aside from community involvement, Monterrosa enjoys cheering on the Stanford Cardinal, the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, attending concerts, and traveling.

Monterrosa was appointed to the South Bend Community School Corporation in 2017 after the untimely passing of Maritza Robles. He currently serves as Board Secretary and Chair of the Safety and Security Committee.

Rodolfo S. Monterrosa, Jr. hopes that in the years to come, he will continue to dream, strive, and inspire.