

Dennis Herrera P '20

The first Latino ever elected as San Francisco city attorney, Dennis Herrera leads an office that has spearheaded cases of national importance on civil rights, affordable healthcare, and environmental protection while remaining a tough and effective advocate for San Francisco's neighborhoods, working families, and underprivileged. Originally from New York, Herrera earned his B.A. from Villanova University and his J.D. from George Washington University School of Law. After moving to San Francisco in 1988, Dennis became actively engaged with neighborhood issues and local politics. He was also heavily involved in the 1992 Clinton-Gore presidential campaign, and President Clinton later appointed Herrera to the U.S. Maritime /Administration. Dennis returned to San Francisco in 1996 after accepting a partnership with a maritime law firm. In 2001, he ran for city attorney on a pledge to defend public institutions' integrity, expand neighborhood protection efforts, and enhance local government's accountability to its residents and taxpayers; he was elected in 2001. In his role as San Francisco's advocate, Dennis filed the first-ever government lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of state marriage laws that discriminate against gay and lesbian couples, and his office was centrally involved in the successful battle to win marriage equality in California. He recently filed a federal lawsuit against President Donald Trump and his administration for his executive order directing enforcement action against sanctuary cities and threatening to withhold federal funding from those cities. Dennis and his wife, Anne, live in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood with their son, Declan.