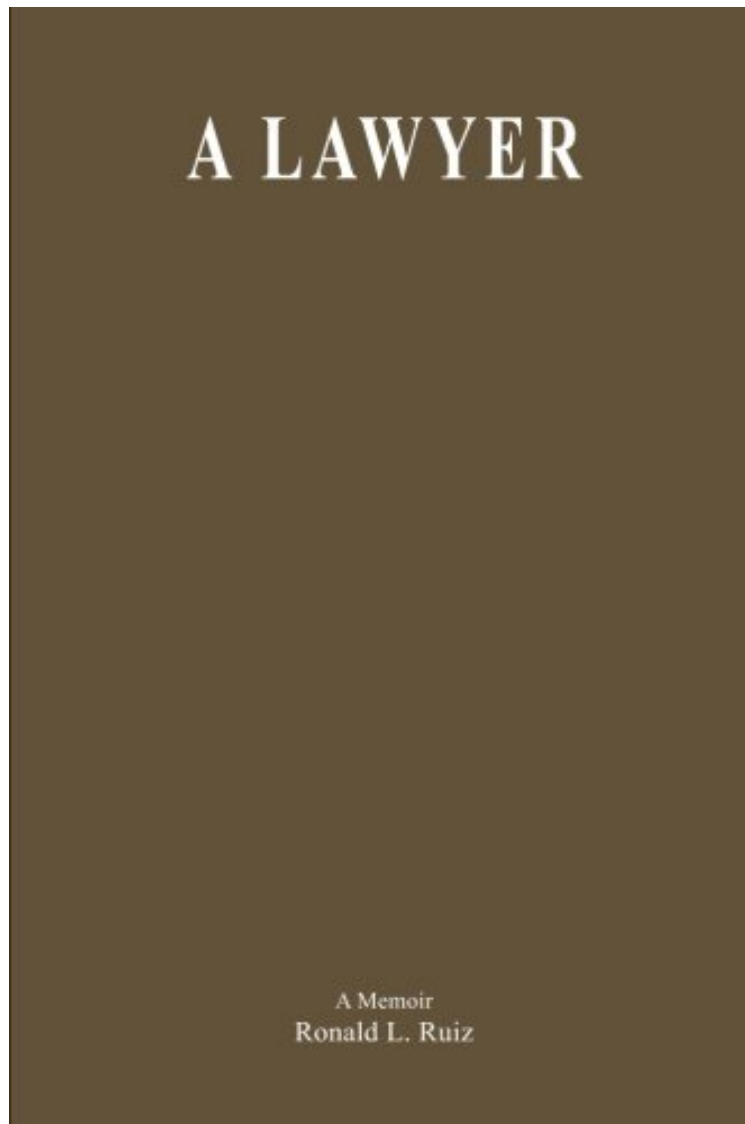


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A Lawyer

Ronald L Ruiz

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Ronald L Ruiz : A Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Lawyer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Moving stories of lives caught up in our criminal justice systemBy K WilsonAlthough this is a memoir, the author places the emphasis on the lives that have touched him in his journey as a criminal defense lawyer. He captures what it means to defend the disenfranchised in today's criminal justice system and reveals how much he cared for the people he defended. It is not your typical Hollywood courtroom drama because it is so real, but it is all the more captivating because of the truth of the emotions evident in the telling of these stories.

At once heart breaking and heart warming, the lives told will move you in ways you might not expect. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a recommendation by JLWBy J. WerneryThis book will keep you engrossed. The flow of the writing, and the story, makes you want to keep reading. Memoirs are not usually my favorite reads. I chose to read this one because I had read Ruiz's fiction, which was powerful and engaging. The intimate view of a lawyer's workload and immersion, in the specific cases presented here, was enlightening. Lawyer wannabe's, and anyone wanting to understand the profession better, should read this to see some of the right reasons to enter criminal law. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Lawyer TO REMEMBERBy Bobbie ScarfeAbsolutely LOVED IT!!!! This was an amazing story told by a wonderful author. I learned a lot about law and justice (and injustice)!

Ronald L. Ruiz's memoir spans over 36 years of practicing law in California, focusing on five memorable cases. One of only six Mexican-American lawyers practicing law in Northern California during his early years, he saw a transformation in the criminal justice system that will leave the reader wondering whether this was progress.

During a 36yr career as a DA and CA trial lawyer Ruiz (Big Bear 2003) "wrote well-received novels and those same writing skills are on display in his new memoir. The book opens with frank, clearly written vignettes from his childhood: 'How I despised my brown skin.'" The major trials focused on are "[e]nlivened by vivid details and engaging dialogue, these accounts read like enthralling legal fiction... Ruiz maintains an involving, unpretentious narrative flow that keeps the reader interested and on his side. A well-written, engaging look at a life of law." - KIRKUS REVIEWS "A Lawyer is a great book... a commentary on the intersection of race, culture, history, and the law as these categories relate to Latinos in the SW. It's a literary work... also a social critique. I would definitely teach it... in conjunction with his two novels, Happy Birthday Jess and The Big Bear... [In my] strategic working group on 'Critical Prison Studies in an Age of Mass Incarceration.' I'm going to encourage every participant in that group, which will include faculty and graduate students, to read the book." -Marcial Gonzalez, Assoc Prof of Eng, UC Berkeley "Gripping narrative, you can feel the author's pain and feelings of accomplishment." -Steven Hernandez About the Author After college, Ronald L. Ruiz went to law school for all the wrong reasons, he now says. After ten years of practicing criminal defense law, Ruiz returned to writing and began working on his critically acclaimed first novel, Happy Birthday Jess (Arte Pblco Press, 1994). His second novel, Giuseppe Rocco (Arte Pblco Press, 1998), is the recipient of a national literary prize, the 1998 Premio Aztln. Ron Ruiz is at his best when depicting personal struggles, says the San Jose Mercury News about his third novel, The Big Bear (Arte Pblco Press, 2003). A graduate of the University of San Francisco Law School, criminal defense attorney and former District Attorney of Santa Cruz County, Ruiz retired from criminal law and continues to write every day.