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Santo Cruz grew up in rural Stearns County before embarking on his legal career. He currently serves CentraCare as Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer after previously being Associate General Counsel and Vice President of Community and Government Relations. Prior to joining CentraCare, he was a prosecutor for Hennepin County, Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel for the

Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Attorney for the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. He earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, where he is currently an adjunct professor. He serves on a number of non-profit and government Boards and Committees, including the Minnesota Hospital Association Legal Board. Santo and his family currently reside in rural Minnesota.