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Art, and Culture

Supreme Court Black Belt

Texas
Supreme Court
Justice
David Medina
revisits
the origins of his
American Dream
in Hitchcock,
Texas.

Army of 100,000



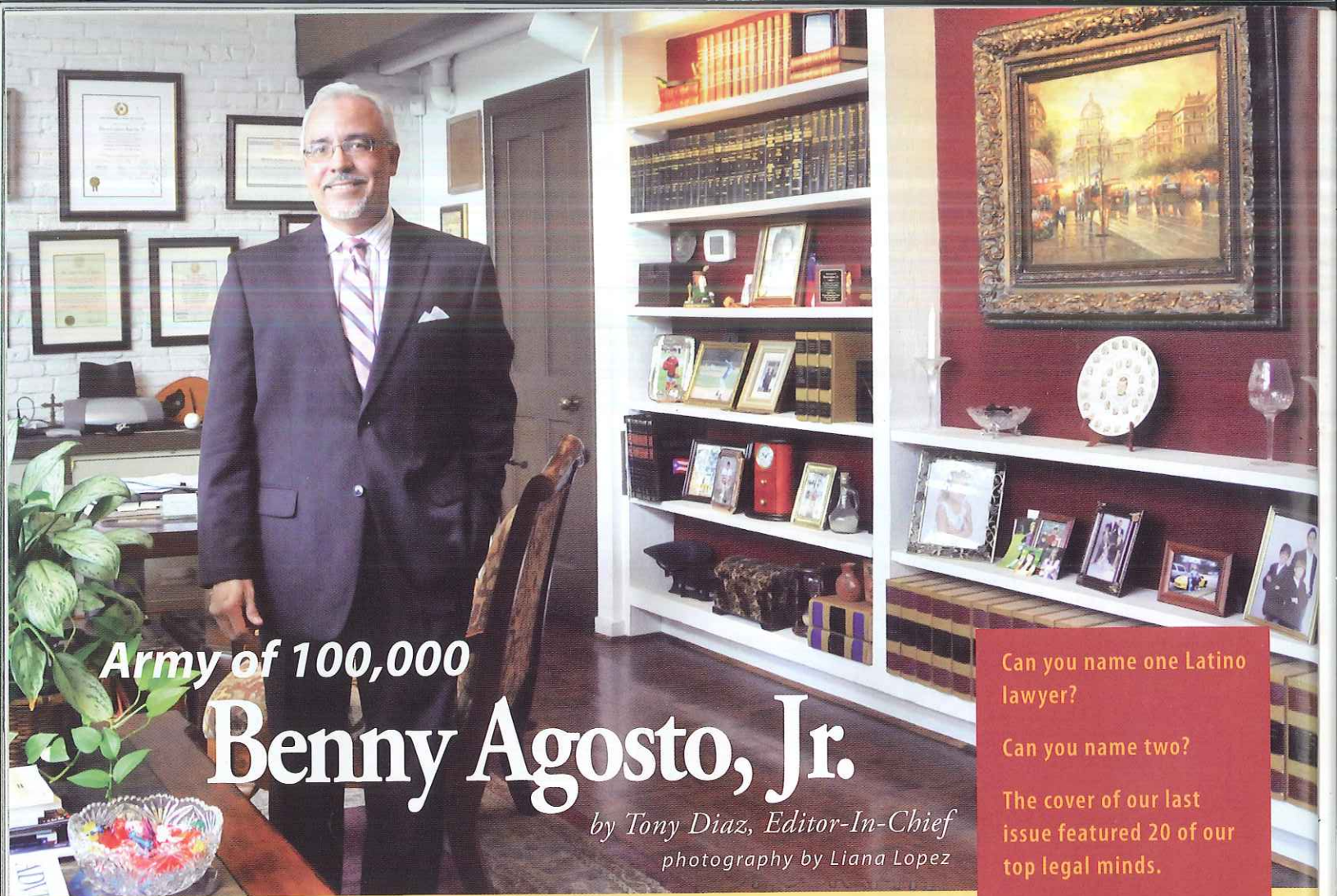
Benny Agosto, Jr., Esq.
President Elect
Hispanic National Bar Association



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Army of 100,000

Benny Agosto, Jr.

*by Tony Diaz, Editor-In-Chief
photography by Liana Lopez*

Agosto has been advocating for that image at many levels. This year, as he travels the entire country as president of the HNBA, when he sits at a table or stands at a podium, he is 100,000 leaders strong.

This generalship was first cultivated on the battle field of soccer. In his native Puerto Rico, Agosto so excelled at fútbol that Houston Baptist University recruited him to play NCAA Division I soccer. He earned his bachelor's degree in science and then entered graduate school at the University of Houston. In a parallel universe, Agosto is a microbiologist.

After much soul searching, Agosto chose to enter law school. He attended South Texas College of Law, where he excelled in mock trial and academics. He went on to become a board certified trial lawyer at the prestigious firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend.

“One of the most crowning moments of my life was to be hired as the first minority in Houston’s oldest plaintiff law firm,” he said. “And now, I’m a partner.”

This was neither the first nor the last of many firsts.

Agosto is now the first Texas lawyer to be named HNBA President.

Poetic Justice

We have been using a martial metaphor. To extend the conceit, it is our veteranos who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, many of whom

Can you name one Latino lawyer?

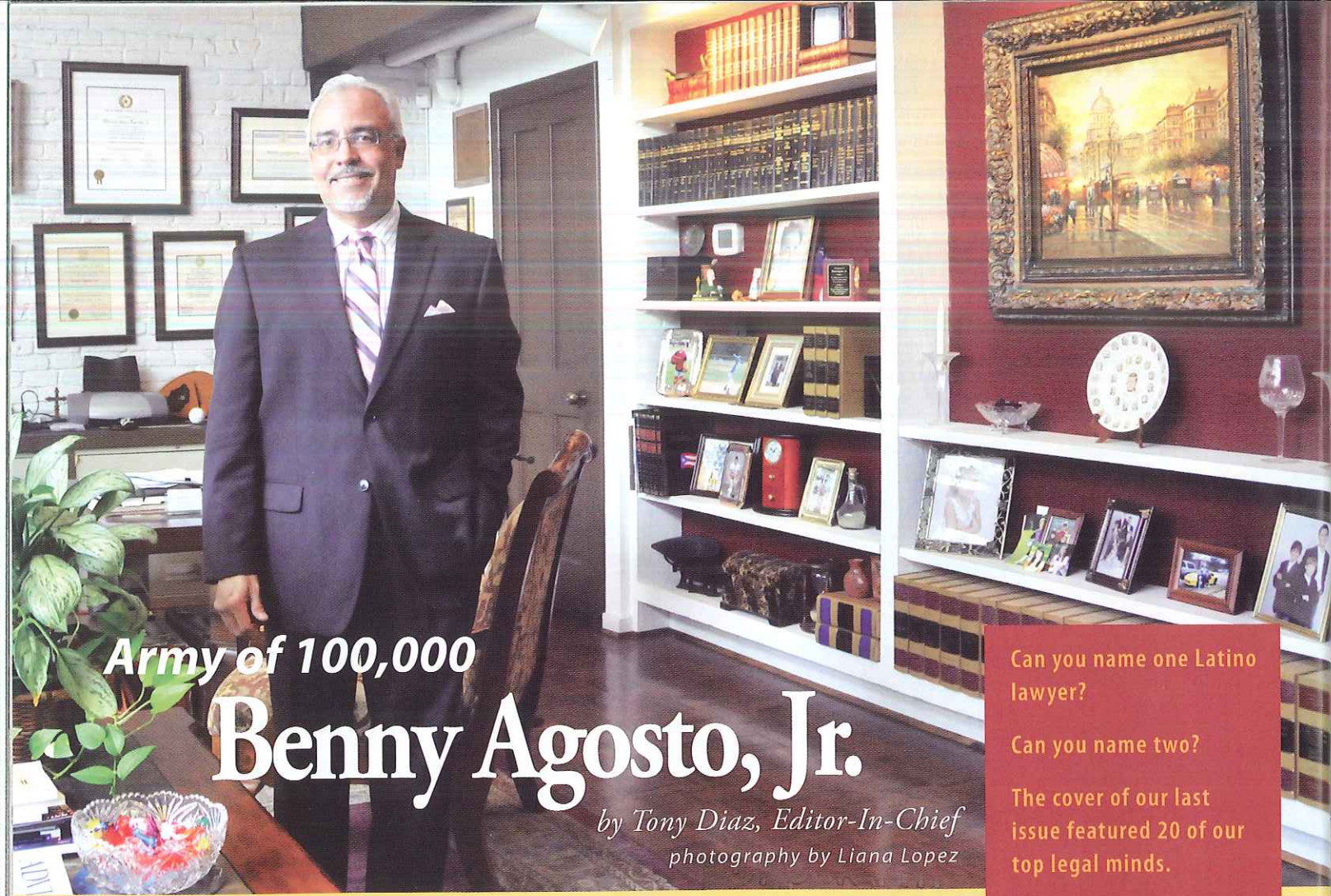
Can you name two?

The cover of our last issue featured 20 of our top legal minds.

In this issue, we profile Benny Agosto, Jr, newly elected president of the Hispanic National Hispanic Bar Association (HNBA).

The HNBA has 100,000 members. That’s huge in many ways.

Imagine a nation where, when we are thought of, we’re thought of as a massive group of intellectuals, professionals and policy shapers. This would be nothing short of a Latino Renaissance.



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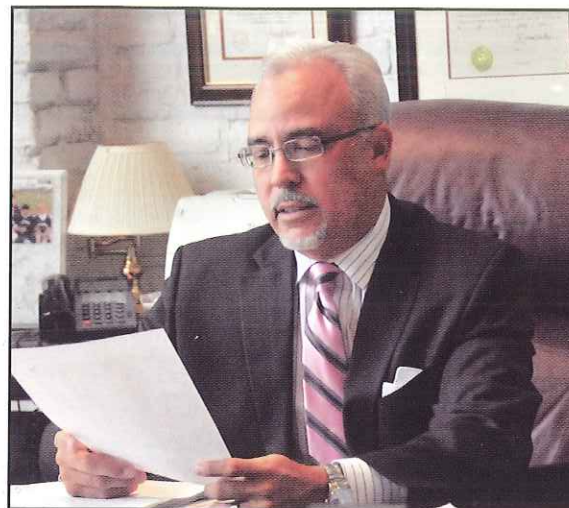
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returned from the theater of war to find that the nation they loved and cared for did not, sometimes, treat us fairly.

These warriors used their wisdom, intelligence and energy to create institutions such as the G.I. Forum, which fought for our rights. Benny Agosto's father served in WWII and shaped him to become the man he is today.



"I pride myself in being a community leader," Agosto said. "I consider myself a moderate person, but am tenacious when it comes to my community."

It is powerful to see the values that have helped Agosto reach this current pinnacle of his career translate into action across the nation. As president of the Hispanic National Bar Association, he will pursue initiatives in three main areas dear to his heart:

-Professional Initiatives, which will manifest in such things as The Pro-bono awards that recognize and honor those lawyers across the nation who contribute significantly to their community through advocacy and pro-bono work.

-Children Initiatives, which will take the form of such projects as The Feed the Children Initiative, raising money for and awareness of the communities in which the HNBA meetings are held.

-Community Initiatives, which will form the base for the Veterans Initiative, in which will lawyers and veterans will be brought together to obtain proper legal representation. This program also brings us full circle.

"I believe we all have a duty to our community, a civic responsibility," tells us, Agosto. "But I also believe that you have to expand yourself out of your community to the state level, and then national, which is what the HNBA is allowing me to do."