

Benny Agosto, Jr., Managing Partner
Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Agosto, Aziz & Stogner
800 Commerce Street, Houston, TX 77002
Direct: 713-226-5141; Main: 713-222-7211
bagosto@awtxlaw.com



Benny Agosto, Jr. is the Managing Partner at Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Agosto, Aziz & Stogner, the longest standing plaintiffs' personal injury law firm in Texas, where he has practiced for more than 26 years. Benny has spent his career representing individuals and the families of individuals injured or killed by the negligence of others in cases involving catastrophic injuries and wrongful death of all kinds, including premises liability, workplace and industrial accidents, products liability, and commercial vehicles. He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Texas. Benny is a graduate of Houston Christian University and South Texas College of Law Houston, where he has continuously donated for the benefit of his alma mater and future law students, including a donation of more than \$4 million to establish The Benny Agosto, Jr. Diversity Center dedicated to expanding diversity in legal education. Benny is a former President of the Houston Bar Association, Hispanic National Bar Association, and is the President and Founder of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation, which has raised more than \$550,000 in scholarships for Hispanic students attending the three Houston-area law schools. Benny is a dedicated member of Foundry Methodist Church, where he also serves on the Board of Directors.

EDUCATION

South Texas College of Law Houston

J.D. - 1995

University of Houston

Graduate Studies - 1987

Houston Christian University

B.S. – 1986

Wesleyan Academy, Puerto Rico

1981

LEADERSHIP

State Bar of Texas

- Board of Directors (2020-2023)
- Director of the Advanced Evidence & Discovery Law Conference (2016)
- Director of the Advanced Personal Injury Conference
- Board of Directors, Hispanic Issues Section
- Chair, Hispanic Issues Section (2014-2015)
- Chair, Grievance Committee, District 4G19 (1998-2000)
- Member, College of the State Bar of Texas (1997-2000)
- Chair, Texas Bar Journal Editorial (2007-2009)
- Editor's Board, State Bar of Texas Litigation Section Report, The Advocate
- Nominations Committee, Hispanic Issues Section Council (2020-Present)
- Member, Litigation Section

- Member, Hispanic Issues Section
- Member, Pro Bono College
- Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation

Houston Bar Association

- President (2019-2020)
- 1st Vice President (2012-2017)
- 2nd Vice President (2013-2014, 2015-2016)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Board of Directors (2008-2011)
- Board of Directors, Houston Bar Foundation (2024-Present)
- Board of Directors, Houston Lawyer Referral Service
- Life Fellow, Houston Bar Foundation
- President, Houston Volunteer Lawyers
- President, Dispute Resolution Center (2012-2013)
- Founding Member and Chair, LGBTQ+ Committee (2019-Present)
- Chair, Gender Fairness Committee
- Chair, Judicial Polls Committee
- Chair, Speakers Bureau Committee
- Chair, Bench Bar Conference Committee
- Chair, Campaign to End Homelessness & Hunger Committee
- Chair, Juvenile Consequences Partnership
- Chair, Continuing Legal Education Committee
- Chair, Dispute Resolution Center Committee
- Chair, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
- Chair, Golf Tournament Committee
- Chair, HAY Center Committee
- Chair, Law & the Media Committee
- Chair, Law Week Committee
- Chair, Lawyers for a Beautiful Houston Committee
- Chair, Professionalism Committee
- Chair, Membership Committee
- Co-Chair, Habitat for Humanity Committee
- Co-Chair, Law and the Media Committee (2014-2015)
- Co-Chair, Law Week Committee (2011-2012)
- Member, Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Commission (2003-2004)
- Member, Judicial Polls Committee
- Mentor

American Bar Association

- Board of Directors, Editorial Board on Lawyers Manual on Professional Conduct (2021-2024)
- Member, Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fundraising Committee (2024)
- Member, Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession Commission (2013-2015)
- Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities Hearing in Texas
- Life Fellow, American Bar Association Foundation

Hispanic National Bar Association

- President (2011-2012)
- Regional President, Region XII (2006-2008)
- Board of Directors
- Co-Founder and Board of Directors, Legal Education Fund
- Chair, Task Force on Unaccompanied Minors Humanitarian Crisis (2014-2015)
- Co-Founder and Co-Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Law and Policy

Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation

- Founder and President, Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation (2006-Present)
- Raised over \$550,000 for scholarships

Mexican American Bar Association

- President, Texas, Mexican American Bar Association (2005-2006)
- Vice President, Texas, Mexican American Bar Association (2003-2004)
- Board of Directors, Mexican American Bar Association of Houston
- Judiciary Screening Committee, Mexican American Bar Association of Houston

Houston Trial Lawyers Association

- Board of Directors
- Chairman, HTLA Masters of Trial Seminar (2000)
- Co-Chairman, CLE Committee (2002-2003)
- Co-Chairman, Houston Trial Lawyers Association Advocates (1998-1999)
- Member, Fundraising Committees (2000-2001)
- Editor, Houston Trial Lawyers Association Newsletter

South Texas College of Law Houston

- Board of Directors (2024-Present)
- Founder and Founding Editor, Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy (2017-Present)
- Board of Directors, South Texas College of Law Houston Alumni Association

Additional Leadership

- Board of Directors, Lone Star Legal Aid (2015-Present)
- Former Board of Directors, Hispanic Bar Association of Houston
- Board of Directors, Texas Trial Lawyers Association Advocates, Texas Trial Lawyers Association (1997-1999)
- Member, Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee (2006-2008)
- Member, Program Committee, National Conference of Bar Presidents (2014-2015)
- Honorary Gala Co-Chair, Anti-Defamation League Luncheon (2008, 2011, 2022)

Community Leadership

- President, Cy-Hope Disaster Recovery Foundation (2019-Present)
- Board of Directors, Cy-Hope Foundation (2017-Present)
- Board of Directors, Cy-Hope Disaster Recovery Foundation (2017-Present)
- Member, Regional Advisory Leadership Council, United Negro College Fund (2014-Present)
- Chair, Board of Directors, Foundry Methodist Church (2010-Present)
- Former Gala Chair, United Negro College Fund
- Board of Directors, Wesley Community Center (2005)
- Lifetime Member, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Former Member, Go Tejano Committee, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

- Co-Founder, Houston Dia de Los Muertos
- Board of Directors, Houston Dia de Los Muertos
- Former Grand Marshal, Houston Dia de Los Muertos
- Member, Steering Committee, Just The Beginning – A Pipeline Organization

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Fellow Patriot and Life Fellow, American Board of Trial Advocates
- Former Member, Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee
- Life Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Trial Law Institute, Litigation Counsel of America
- Diversity Law Institute, Litigation Counsel of America
- Supreme Court Historical Society
- American Association for Justice
- Texas Trial Lawyers Association

HONORS

- Ohtli Award, Institute of Mexicans Living Abroad (2024)
- Juneteenth Ally Award, Center for the Healing of Racism (2024)
- 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers, Lawdragon (2022-2024)
- Top 100: Texas Super Lawyers, Super Lawyers (2021-2024)
- Top 100: Houston Super Lawyers, Super Lawyers (2017-2024)
- Top Latino Lawyers, Latino Leaders Magazine (2016-2024)
- Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs, Best Lawyers® (2016-2024)
- Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs, Best Lawyers® (2012-2024)
- President's Award, Houston Bar Association (2008, 2015, 2024)
- Texas Super Lawyers, Super Lawyers (2004, 2006-2024)
- Distinguished Lawyer Alumni Award, South Texas College of Law Houston (2023)
- Spirit of Excellence Award, Houston Christian University (2023)
- Maestro Award for Professional Achievement, Latino Leaders Magazine (2023)
- Lawyer of the Year – Product Liability Litigation Plaintiffs Houston, Best Lawyers (2023)
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Hispanic Issues Section, State Bar of Texas (2022)
- Houston's Top Lawyers, Personal Injury, H Texas Magazine (2015-2021)
- Top Lawyers List, Personal Injury, Houstonia Magazine (2013-2015, 2018-2020)
- Puerto Rico Soccer Hall of Fame (2020)
- Medal for Excellence in Advocacy, American College of Trial Lawyers (2019)
- Top 100 Premises Liability Settlements in the United States, TopVerdict.com (2018)
- Top Latino Leaders Award, National Diversity Council (2018)
- America's Top 100 Attorneys®, America's Top 100 LLC (2018)
- National Latino Trial Lawyers Association Top 10, The National Trial Lawyers (2018)
- Humanitarian Award, Male Philanthropist Category, Latino Learning Center (2017)
- Legacy Builder Award, New York University School of Law (2016)
- Distinguished Alumnus Award, Houston Christian University (2016)
- Athletics Hall of Fame (Soccer, NCAA Div. 1), Houston Christian University (2016)
- 25 Most Influential Hispanic Lawyers, Latino Leaders Magazine (2015)

- Outstanding Public Service Award, South Texas College of Law Houston (2015)
- Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Student Bar Association (2015)
- President's Award, State Bar of Texas (2015)
- Top Rated Lawyer in Texas for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability, Martindale-Hubble (2015)
- Outstanding Service and Leadership Award, Hispanic Issues Section, State Bar of Texas (2015)
- Houston Dynamo Hispanic Heritage Award, Major League Soccer (2015)
- Top 100 Trial Lawyers, The National Trial Lawyers Association (2011-2015)
- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated, Ethical Standards and Legal Ability, Martindale-Hubbell® (2005-2015)
- Civil Rights Medal, Anti-Defamation League (2014)
- Hispanic Male Executive of the Year, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2014)
- Trailblazer Outside Counsel of the Year Award, Texas Minority Counsel Program (2014)
- Hispanics in Philanthropy (2014)
- Texas Top Rated Lawyers of 2014, AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubble (2014)
- Peter Perlman Service Award, Litigation Counsel of America (2013)
- Peter Torres, Jr. Community Service Award, Hispanic Issues Section, State Bar of Texas (2013)
- Top Lawyers List, Oil/Gas/Energy, Houstonia Magazine (2013)
- Distinguished Service Award, Klein High School Debate (2012-2013)
- 101 Most Influential Leaders, Latino Leaders Magazine (2011-2012)
- 101 Influentials, Hispanic Business (2011)
- Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, Houston Texans, National Football League (2011)
- Leading Plaintiff Lawyers in America Finalist, Lawdragon (2009)
- Texas Top Lawyers for the People, Texas Magazine (2008)
- Certificate of Merit, State Bar of Texas (2006)
- Presidential Citation Award, State Bar of Texas (2006)

PHILANTHROPY

- Donated more than \$4 million to establish the Benny Agosto, Jr. Diversity Center at the South Texas College of Law Houston
- \$1 million Endowment to the Greater Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Institute
- Donated more than \$100K to the Star of Hope Mission
- \$100K Endowment for the Nikki & Benny Agosto, Jr. Single Mothers Scholarship at the Houston Christian University
- \$100K Endowment for the Nikki & Benny Agosto, Jr. Scholarship at the University of Houston Law Center in honor of Judge Josefina Rendon
- \$100K Endowment for the Nikki & Benny Agosto, Jr. Scholarship at the University of Houston
- \$100K Endowment for the Nikki & Benny Agosto, Jr. Scholarship at the Texas Southern University
- Donated more than \$100K to establish the Marina and Bernardino Agosto, Sr. Award at South Texas College of Law Houston
- Donated more than \$100K to the Houston Bar Foundation
- Donated and raised more than \$100K for the United Negro College Fund
- Donated more than \$100K to the Cy-Hope Foundation
- Donated more than \$100K to the Houston Christian University soccer and baseball programs
- Committed \$100K to the Friends of the Aldine Public Library Foundation
- Donated more than \$100K to the Wesleyan Academy
- Donated more than \$90K to the Houston Dia de Los Muertos
- Donated more than \$50K to the Houston Christian University Alumni Association
- Donated van and more than \$50K to the Houston Children's Charity

- Donated more than \$50K to the Mission of Yahweh
- Donated more than \$30K to the Houston Bar Association Habitat for Humanity Committee
- Donated more than \$30K to the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston Foundation
- Donated more than \$25K to the Cy-Hope Disaster Recovery Foundation
- Donated more than \$20K to the Rice University
- Donated more than \$20K to the Hispanic National Bar Association Legal Education Fund
- Donated more than \$20K to the Anti-Defamation League
- Donated more than \$15K to the Shearn Elementary School Library Rebuild
- Donated more than \$15K to the American Bar Association Legal Opportunity Scholarships Committee
- Donated more than \$15K to the Mexican Bar Association of Houston Foundation
- Donated more than \$10K to the Lone Star Legal Aid
- Donated more than \$10K to the Sam Houston State University
- Donated more than \$10K to the Harvard University
- Donated more than \$10K to the Navidad en el Barrio
- Donated more than \$1K to the Just The Beginning – A Pipeline Organization
- Donor to the American Board of Trial Advocates Foundation
- Donor to the Houston Food Bank
- Donor to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation
- Donor to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Established the Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Award presented by the Houston Bar Association
- Established the Houston Bar Association Diversity Awards presented by the Houston Bar Association
- Namesake of the Houston Bar Association LGBTQ+ Committee’s Benny Agosto, Jr. Pride Award (“The Benny”)
- Authored Victoria Goes to Court, a children’s book donated to schools across America