



ENTERTAINMENT

## **Infante & Zumpano, P.A. Announces Reality Show Winners File Lawsuit Against Telemundo Network for Reneging on Acting Contract**

Program Winners Claim Telemundo Promised Acting Leads in Soap Opera

Miami, FL--(HISPANIC PR WIRE - BUSINESS WIRE)--April 29, 2005--The law firm of Infante & Zumpano, P.A., on behalf of Maria "Millie" Ruperto and Raul Arrieta, the first-prize winners of the first season of "Protagonistas de Novela" (Protagonists in a Soap Opera), one of Telemundo Network's highest rated shows ever, has filed a lawsuit against Telemundo and Promofilm for breach of contract and fraud, among other claims. The lawsuit alleges that the defendants failed and refused to provide Ruperto and Arrieta lead roles in a Telemundo telenovela (soap opera), the first prize for winning on the reality show.

Ruperto and Arrieta took a chance in 2002 and joined the cast of "Protagonistas de Novela" -- billed as the U.S.'s first Hispanic reality show -- to have a shot at the lead-role prize and stardom. Winners of the reality program, similar to FOX's "American Idol," had to outlast cast members by garnering the most call-in votes by viewers each week.

After two months of taping the show, Ruperto and Arrieta emerged as winners out of 12 original contestants. More than 2 million people had called in their votes in this first edition of "Protagonistas de Novela." Telemundo, which is seen in 92 percent of all U.S. Hispanic households, however, allegedly breached their contract and defrauded Ruperto, Arrieta, and all the millions of viewers and voters by failing to provide Ruperto and Arrieta with the lead roles that Telemundo represented would be awarded to the first-place winners.

Telemundo Network, affiliated to NBC and Universal Studios, also produced 2003 and 2004 editions of "Protagonistas de Novela."

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