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 COSTILLA ORTIZ

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## LAW OFFICES OF FRANK COSTILLA, L.P.

\* Chosen as 2006 Super Lawyer

**F**rank Costilla doesn't need to be reminded why he works so hard.

His clients show him.

Early in his 29-year career, he was involved in representing a 4-year-old girl who had been horribly burned in a car fire.

"Recently, that little girl came back to see me," Costilla recalls. "She is a married woman with children and she still has terrible scars, something she will live with her whole life."

**A CULTURE OF COMPASSION** The firstborn son of a laborer, Costilla found success through education. After graduating *cum laude* from Texas Tech University, he was named a Fulbright scholar by the U.S. State Department and spent a year studying in Ecuador before attending law school, all the while remaining connected to his roots.

"My parents instilled in me a healthy work ethic and an empathy for working people.

That led to a desire to help those who are hurt and powerless," he says.

That tradition has been instilled in the next generation of the family. The Super Lawyer's daughter, Leandra Costilla Ortiz, and M. Lourdes Costilla, his daughter-in-law, now practice with Costilla. The firm handles catastrophic personal injury or death and serious economic loss cases resulting from negligence, misrepresentation or product defects.

### A TRADITION OF FAMILY AND SERVICE

"It's very meaningful to have my daughters in the practice," he says. "They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and having my family follow in my footsteps is indeed a compliment."

**COURTROOM INTENSITY** Costilla enters the courtroom with zeal, a committed advocate intent on using his skills to help his clients.

"For me, trial work is the most exciting, most challenging part of my practice," he says. "Everything else is just preparation for the courtroom."

Because the firm is small, attorneys provide personalized attention to clients, who frequently have been wounded emotionally as well as physically. Costilla is proud that every lawyer he works with complements his staff. He attributes a big part of his firm's success to their experience, dedication and caring.

"You get really close to people that you're trying to help, children who might have been left without a father or a mother, or perhaps parents who have a baby with traumatic brain injuries," he says. "It's our job to make sure they get justice."

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