

DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW

COPYRIGHT TvNotas printed proof of Noelia's secret nuptials

LATIN CELEBRITY TAB WINS CASE OVER PHOTOS

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A federal judge in Los Angeles has sided with the Miami Beach publisher of Latin American celebrity tabloid TvNotas, which was sued for printing photographs from the wedding of a Puerto Rican pop star and her manager.

For years, singer Noelia Lorenzo Monge and her manager, Mexican music producer Jorge Reynoso, had kept quiet about their relationship — until TvNotas splashed photos of the couple's intimate Las Vegas wedding on its cover Feb. 10, 2009.

The couple claimed Maya Magazines, which publishes the U.S. edition of TvNotas, obtained the photographs illegally and hurt the career and marketability of the singer, known across the Americas as Noelia. A lawsuit was filed five months after publication, claiming Noelia's career suffered because part of her success "is attributable to her status as an unwed international sex symbol."

The magazine fought accusations of copyright infringement and misappropriation of likeness, arguing it bought the pictures from Reynoso's former bodyguard and had a right to publish them.

The magazine emerged the winner. A five-page ruling Sept. 30 by U.S. District Judge Manuel L. Real, said the magazine's actions abided by the fair use doctrine of copyright law.

Real found the magazine had a right to publish the photographs because they were not used to document the wedding night, but instead to challenge the couple's repeated denials of marriage.

"In the context of the publication,



J. ALBERT DIAZ

Miami attorney D. Fernando Bobadilla persuaded a judge that photographs were not used to document the wedding night but instead to challenge pop singer Noelia's repeated denials of marriage.

therefore, the photographs served as evidence that [they] had secretly married in spite of their statements to the contrary," Real wrote as he granted summary judgment in favor of the magazine publisher.

The couple's attorney in

Woodland Hills, California, Michael Fattorosi, did not return calls for comment before deadline.

At issue were six photos published by the magazine showing

SEE WEDDING, PAGE A4



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WEDDING: Lawyer says star producer threatened him

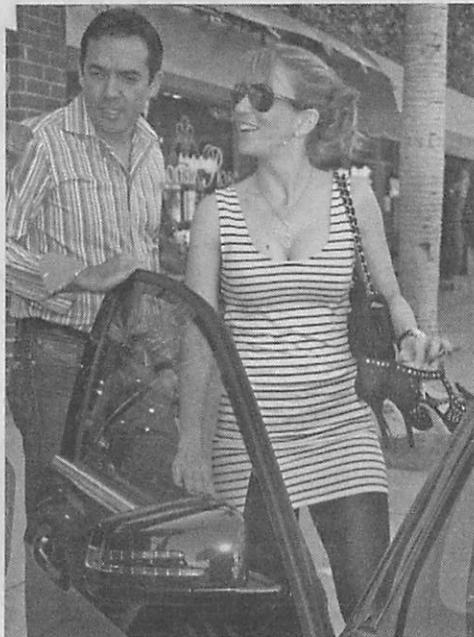
the couple's Jan. 3, 2007, wedding at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas. In the two years that followed, the couple often denied their marriage to entertainment reporters. One of Reynoso's former bodyguards, Oscar Viqueira, decided to approach TvNotas with proof, according to the magazine's Miami intellectual property attorney, D. Fernando Bobadilla.

Viqueira claimed he had lent the couple his car while they were in Miami, only to later find a digital camera's memory card in an ashtray. When he offered to return the card, the couple refused, Bobadilla said Thursday. The ex-employee later sold the pictures to the magazine.

The couple denied that series of events. In their lawsuit, they accused the magazine of copyright infringement for publishing allegedly stolen photos and misappropriation of likeness based on invasion of privacy.

TEARS AND A THREAT

As if the wedding photos and lawsuit weren't sensational enough, Noelia broke down in tears at a meeting with lawyers, and the music producer's theatrical antics nearly got him arrested when he threatened the magazine's attorney at the start of a deposition, according to a sworn



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Mexican music producer Jorge Reynoso and singer Noelia Lorenzo Monge say photos of their 2007 wedding were stolen.

statement by Bobadilla.

"There was plenty of high drama in the case," he recalled.

Years before the couple sued, they were

on the defensive in a Puerto Rico federal court in a case involving Noelia's stepfather, media industry executive Carlos "Topy" Mamery, and Noelia's mother, famed pop singer Yolandita Monge.

The couple accused Mamery, senior vice president of operations at the Spanish Broadcasting System of Puerto Rico, of raping Noelia as a child. They also accused him of releasing a sex tape showing Noelia with a rapper boyfriend. A federal judge dismissed that case.

Those issues came up during Bobadilla's deposition of Noelia at a Los Angeles law firm March 1 when Bobadilla said Noelia cried. In a sworn statement by Bobadilla, the attorney said Reynoso tossed a pack of chewing gum at Bobadilla's face when he met with the attorneys for his deposition the next day.

"Are you the [expletive] that made my wife cry yesterday?" he asked Bobadilla, according to court documents. The attorney said Reynoso then threatened to kill him and his family in Argentina.

When asked if the couple's attorneys were present during the encounter, Bobadilla said, "They sure did, but the attorneys unfortunately could not control him."

It wasn't the first time Reynoso has

been accused of being hot-headed. Among other reported incidents, he was once accused by Miami Beach police of pushing a police officer.

"I think the judge realized that a lot of these accusations were just outrageous. Their credibility wasn't that high," Bobadilla said.

MAGAZINE CELEBRATES VICTORY

Reached Thursday, magazine editorial director Juan García Alejandro said his publication's win was significant.

"We're very satisfied with the victory. It shows that we're leaders in revealing the truth and not holding back information. This shows we won't be abused by celebrities," he said in Spanish.

García Alejandro scoffed when asked about Noelia's claims of damage to her reputation.

Bobadilla said he was glad the judge ruled in favor of the magazine because not doing so would have "chilled the dissemination of news."

Bobadilla reveled in his latest victory. "We have a strict policy of not settling claims. We have not paid a claim ever, and hopefully we never will," he said.

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