

December, 2008

### Upcoming Firm Seminars:

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is Wednesday, **January 14, 2009** at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be **“New Employment Laws for 2009.”** If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

### Some Recent Professional and Community Activities of Our Lawyers:

- **Michael Hackman's** recent presentation to many of the Firm's friends and clients on Post-Election and Year-End Estate Planning included a discussion of the tax advantages and disadvantages of year-end transactions in light of possible changes in the tax laws.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in negotiating an agreement letting a licensee establish a restaurant at the Detroit Michigan Metropolitan Airport, using the client's brand.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Michelle S. Robins** persuaded the court to grant a family law client more custodial time with his children, including time over the winter holidays.
- **Nicholas Kanter** won a hearing where an opponent challenged a cross-complaint that our firm had filed on behalf of a building contractor. The court ruled that the cross-complaint sufficiently pled the client's claims.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** settled a collection action for a construction company involving work performed for a real estate developer.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted in finalizing a settlement enabling a client to reacquire all rights to an income producing asset that had been leased to a third party. In another matter, Kevin worked with a client to finalize terms of a joint venture agreement.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** settled a marital dissolution matter for a client, successfully ending 1½ years of litigation over financial and child custody issues.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in lengthy negotiations to acquire a software program for use in the client's business. The process included bringing litigation against the prior owner, which helped motivate them to complete the deal.
- **David B. Bobrosky** and **Andrew L. Shapiro** persuaded a court to allow a punitive damages claim to go forward. The defendant broke multiple traffic laws, which led to the death of the son of one of the firm's clients. It is rare for a court to allow punitive damages claims in traffic accident cases without drugs or alcohol involved.
- **Michelle S. Robins** volunteered as a Family Law Court mediator in Van Nuys. Michelle helped settle several legal disputes, which eased the court's litigation backlog.



- **John B. Marshall** and paralegal **Amy Bernardino** spoke to the Healthcare Financial Management Association's Southern California chapter on Privacy and Identity Theft Issues. They discussed guidelines for creating an Identity Theft Prevention Program to comply with the federal Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. This law requires businesses that accept payment *after* services or goods are provided, to adopt a program by May 1, 2009. John and Amy have helped several clients draft identity theft prevention policies.
- **David Gurnick** was appointed to serve a second term as chair the Litigation Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **Sue M. Bendavid's** article entitled "2008 Labor and Employment Legislation Update" was published in Valley Lawyer Magazine.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** judged a National Moot Court competition at the United States Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. The competition included law school students from across the nation.
- **David Gurnick** spoke on Nuts and Bolts of Trademark, Copyright and Patent Licensing to the State Bar of California 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute held in Palm Springs.
- **John B. Marshall** and **David Gurnick** assisted a client in providing information to the U.S. Department of Justice and California Attorney General regarding a proposed merger of industrial companies. The merger would reduce competition in the client's industry if allowed to proceed.
- **David B. Bobrosky** tried to take depositions of police officers in a personal injury matter involving a local city. The city resisted having its officers appear. David persuaded the Court to order the city to produce the officers for depositions.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **David Gurnick** assisted two businesses in favorably resolving inquiries from software industry trade associations about claimed unauthorized use of copyrighted software.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** was installed as President of the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. The Foundation raises money for charitable purposes related to the law. Steve spoke as a representative of the Foundation to a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Steve spoke on the United States Constitution.
- **David B. Bobrosky's** article, "Metrolink Victims Must Move Quickly to File Claims," was published in the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. The article discusses legal issues facing victims of the recent Chatsworth train accident.
- As chair of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Family Law Section, **Michelle S. Robins** has been involved in efforts to pass legislation letting attorneys access their client records in paternity cases. The Legislature passed the legislation and the new law takes effect in 2009. In addition, Michelle moderated a program entitled Electronic Evidence: How To Get It In and How to Use It, for the Family Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Michelle also attended a training program to serve as a volunteer temporary judge in the Family Law Department of the Los Angeles Superior Court.
- **Tal Grinblat** spoke to the Intellectual Property Licensing Committee of the State Bar of California on franchising and how to avoid accidentally violating the state's franchise laws.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** attended the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations held at the State Bar Convention in Monterey, California. The Conference suggests laws relevant to the legal profession for consideration by the California Legislature. Steve also chaired his first meeting as Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service Attorney Advisory Committee.
- **Robert A. Hull** and his wife Jennifer are proud parents of a new baby Evan. Bob, mom and Evan are doing fine. **Nicole Kamm** returned to the office after maternity leave. Nicole, her husband Jason, and baby Mia are doing great.