



August, 2008

**Upcoming Firm Seminars:**

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be “*Ins and Out of Franchising.*” If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

**Website:**

We encourage clients and friends to visit our website at “[www.lewitthackman.com](http://www.lewitthackman.com)” for details on upcoming seminars and other information that may interest you. We appreciate your feedback about our website.

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

- **Leon Lewitt** and **Kevin E. Rex** represented and advised a client in restructuring the client’s business to enable the client to sell a majority interest in the business to a private equity firm, while retaining a significant interest in the business going forward. One of the considerations in structuring this multi-million dollar transaction was the desire to structure it in a tax advantageous manner with respect to the rollover equity and the equity associated with his senior management agreement. **Michael Hackman** assisted with the various tax issues which arose throughout the transaction, while **Sue M. Bendavid** assisted in properly transitioning the employees to the new entity, and **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted with the real estate issues.
- **Paul C. Bauducco**, **Sue M. Bendavid**, and paralegal **Sarah Thrift** assisted a multiple unit franchisee of a national restaurant chain in successfully mediating a wage-and-hour class action.
- **Tal Grinblat** assisted a wine franchisor to overcome the state’s demand to escrow initial fees collected from franchisees. The outcome permitted the client to offer and sell franchises without restrictions. In another matter, Tal assisted a prospective franchisee to assess the legal risks and benefits of investing in a new franchise program and negotiated the terms of the franchise agreement.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** successfully defended a client against the spouse’s claims for protective orders and a decrease in custodial time with their child.



- **John B. Marshall** and **David Gurnick** represented a client in presenting market and economic data to Department of Justice antitrust investigators. The client opposes a publicly announced merger that will reduce competition in the client's industry.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **Leon Lewitt** represented a client, which has been family owned for over 40 years, in negotiating the sale of substantially all of its assets to a competitor in their industry. The transaction involved numerous parties, including investment bankers. **Michael Hackman** assisted with the tax issues raised in the transaction while **Sue M. Bendavid** and one of our paralegals, **Sarah Thrift**, assisted with various employment issues related to the sale.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in the purchase of real estate adjacent to the client's large shopping center. The transaction involved multi-national corporations and gave rise to numerous development and environmental issues.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **David Gurnick** helped a Koreatown clothing retailer settle a trademark and trade secret lawsuit brought against the company.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** persuaded a former spouse to transfer a home to a client of the firm who lived in the house for 25 years, even though the parties' divorce judgment failed to award her the house. The former spouse also paid a share of the client's attorneys fees.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a retail day spa chain in revising their customer agreements.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** helped a construction contractor obtain the release of funds from escrow in a dispute with a homeowner.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in steps to avoid losing its prominent trademark, which had been transferred to a lender as security for a loan. In another matter, David helped a client negotiate removal of a potentially costly indemnification clause from an agreement to provide services to a customer.
- **Lewitt Hackman** received a Business to Community Award as an Honorary Exemplary Role Model for pro bono work. **Sue M. Bendavid** represented the firm in accepting the award.
- **Michelle S. Robins** made a presentation about the practice of Family Law to youth members of Law Explorer Post 1926. **Sue M. Bendavid** and **David Gurnick** have been active in establishing the Post to introduce teenagers to the idea of careers in fields of law.
- **Stephen T. Holzer**, **David Gurnick**, and **Keith T. Zimmet** attended a reception sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal recognizing previously honored top attorneys, bankers, and cpa's in the San Fernando Valley.