



*February, 2009*

**Upcoming Firm Seminars:**

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be “**Trademarks, Copyrights, and Trade Secrets: What You Need to Know.**” 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:**

- **Sue M. Bendavid** obtained a complete defense verdict for the firm’s client in a trial defending against a large wage claim brought by a former employee. In another matter, Sue also represented an employer in resolving a claim of discrimination and violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- **Tal Grinblat** helped a manufacturer stop a competitor in Europe from launching a confusingly similar brand in the U.S. The competitor agreed to change the brand name and remove from the United States all products that infringed the client's trademark.
- **Nicole Kamm** obtained favorable settlement of a \$40,000 penalty imposed by a state agency for a client’s failure to have workers compensation insurance. Nicole’s appeal led to settlement of the matter for only \$1,000.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** and **Nicholas Kanter** helped settle claims resulting in the firm’s clients acquiring the interests of their former partners to become sole owners of a men’s clothing business. In another matter, Paul and Nick settled a lawsuit involving foreclosure of mechanic's liens. Paul and Nick succeeded in getting a bank to pay money owed to a contractor represented by the firm.
- **David Gurnick** assisted several restaurant companies in preparing licensing agreements for concessions at a major California airport. In another matter, David assisted a restaurant franchisor in updating their operational policy on inspecting franchised restaurant locations.
- **Kevin E. Rex** helped facilitate the buy-out of a daughter's interest in a family owned business. In connection with the buy-out, Kevin also assisted the parties in securing the necessary funds from a lender in this difficult credit market to effectuate this multi-million dollar buy-out.



- **Steve Mihalovits** and **David Gurnick** represented a client defending a claim brought in Superior Court by the City of Los Angeles. Steve and David persuaded the Los Angeles City Attorney's office to dismiss the claim without any recovery from the firm's client.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Michelle S. Robins** presented a program entitled "What's New in 2009? New Judges, New Cases, New Laws" to the Family Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **Sue M. Bendavid** presented a 2009 Employment Law Update to clients and friends of the firm.
- **Tal Grinblat's** article "The Unintended Franchise and How to Avoid it" was published in the magazine of the State Bar Of California's Intellectual Property Section. The article is also available on the firm's website at "[lewitthackman.com](http://lewitthackman.com)"
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa S. Nellis** attended the annual Institute of Trial Advocacy presented by the local chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.
- **Sue M. Bendavid, David Gurnick, Barry T. Harlan, Stephen T. Holzer, Michelle S. Robins, and Andrew L. Shapiro** were named as Southern California Super Lawyers for 2009. This honor is the result of a rigorous independent peer review evaluation and selection process which names only 5% of the lawyers in the State.
- Paralegals **Amy Bernardino** and **Sarah Thrift** serve as the Co-Chairs of the San Fernando Valley section of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. Amy and Sarah recently organized a program for the Association on using the internet for legal research.