



May, 2009

**Upcoming Firm Seminars:**

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is **Wednesday, July 15, 2009** at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be *“Making the World a Safer Place: Case Studies of Results of Personal Injury Cases.”* 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:**

- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** helped obtain termination of a client's spousal support obligation. The client's ex-spouse received a large sum of money that could be used to meet all financial needs. Barry and Vanessa persuaded the court that the support order against the firm's client was no longer necessary.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** and **Sue M. Bendavid** negotiated settlement of a class action alleging that a client misclassified employees as independent contractors. In another matter, Sue assisted a client recover substantial sums embezzled by an employee.
- **Michael Hackman** received a favorable closing letter from the Internal Revenue Service on a complicated estate tax return where the client might have been responsible for substantial estate taxes.
- In a jury trial in Superior Court **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** won a verdict for a woman and her infant child who were injured when a police car sped by in violation of department policy. In another matter, Andy and David assisted a client in settling a case in which a young boy was injured at a youth organization meeting. The client suffered severe injuries after being told to do an activity for which the facility was not designed.
- **Tal Grinblat** helped a client revive two abandoned trademark applications acquired from a competitor, and prepared documents so the marks could be registered. This saved the client from having to start the application process anew and provided the client earlier application filing dates. In a separate matter, Tal and **Steve Mihalovits** helped a trademark owner demand that an infringer stop using a similar mark. Confusion over the marks led to the client receiving over 40 angry letters meant for the competitor, and an investigation by the Better Business Bureau.
- **Tal Grinblat**, **David Gurnick** and Paralegal **Amy Bernardino** assisted several franchisors in applying to renew their state franchise registrations permitting them to continue offering and selling business franchises in California and other states.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Nicole Kamm** obtained permanent restraining orders for employees of a corporate client against an ex-employee and his brother who threatened the client's employees.





- **Nicholas Kanter** assisted a client in gaining possession of a home the client bought in a foreclosure sale. The occupants refused to leave. Nick won an eviction ruling from the Superior Court. One of the occupants then filed bankruptcy. Nick won an order from the bankruptcy court letting the client enforce the eviction order.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in purchasing land in California's central valley. The acquisition involved obtaining approvals from local agencies.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **Robert A. Hull**, worked with an investment banker and accountant to help shareholders of a construction related company sell their business. **Michael Hackman** assisted on tax issues. **John B. Marshall** assisted in real estate aspects of the sale.
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** assisted a client in collecting support money from the bank account of an ex-spouse who failed to timely make his spousal support payments.
- **Tal Grinblat** helped a gaming industry client revive an abandoned trademark application. This let the client's trademark move forward without needing to re-file their application, and avoided a loss of filing priority.
- **David Gurnick** resolved a franchisor-franchisee dispute on amicable terms. After the client received a letter demanding payment of substantial damages for alleged breach of an Area Development Agreement and a Franchise Agreement, David assisted in negotiating a solution in which no money was paid and the parties were able to continue their relationship at a separate franchise location.
- **Michelle S. Robins** article "*10 Common Misconceptions About Family Law*" was the cover story in the March 2009 issue of Valley Lawyer Magazine.
- Speaker of the **California State Assembly, Hon. Karen Bass** visited the Lewitt Hackman offices for a meeting of the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley. **Stephen T. Holzer** chairs this organization. Speaker Bass spoke on the budget adopted by the State Legislature.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** spoke on the United States Constitution to a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis'** article "*A 'No Fault' State Beats the Blame Game*" was published in The Signal, a daily community newspaper in the Santa Clarita Valley.
- Paralegals **Amy Bernardino** and **Sarah Thrift** organized a program for the Los Angeles Paralegals Association on drafting persuasive arguments using legal reasoning and analysis. Amy and Sarah serve as the Co-Chairs of the San Fernando Valley section of the Association.
- **David Gurnick** and **Tal Grinblat's** article on California's Seller Assisted Marketing Plan law was published in the Los Angeles Daily Journal, a daily newspaper for the legal community. Another article by David Gurnick on business cooperatives was also published in the Daily Journal.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **Sue M. Bendavid's** article entitled "*Layoffs and Terminations in These Troubled Times*" was published in the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. Sue was also quoted in the SFVBJ on changes in labor law since the inauguration of President Obama.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** spoke on Mechanics Liens to the Litigation Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.