

September, 2009

### Upcoming Firm Seminars:

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is **Wednesday, September 23, 2009** at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be “*Current Issues for Professional Firms (Accounting, Medical, and Law Practices)*.” 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:

- **John B. Marshall** and paralegal **Amy Bernardino** helped a client meet requirements of 48 states in notifying over 8,000 recipients of a company’s information security breach. The notifications had to comply with various state laws and the Federal Trade Commission’s new Red Flag Rules.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in negotiating a broker agreement for distribution of mass market products. David assisted another client in negotiating an agreement to distribute a software product over the client’s internet website.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in negotiating an agreement under which the firm’s client will develop, manage, and operate the website for a high profile, internationally recognized entertainer.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** assisted a client in ending an unsatisfactory franchisor-franchisee relationship. Steve responded to a breach of contract claim brought against the client, by showing the other side that their claim could not succeed. The matter was settled and the parties’ relationship was ended, to the satisfaction of the firm’s client.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** obtained a stipulated judgment from a party who owed money to a contractor represented by the firm. The judgment was for the full amount owed, plus attorney’s fees and costs.
- **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** helped a client purchase a valuable trademark from an out-of-state company on favorable terms. **Michael Hackman** assisted in forming a new entity to make the purchase.
- **Sue Bendavid** and **Nicholas Kanter** persuaded the court to dismiss an employee’s claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress allegedly caused by such employee being terminated from employment.
- **Michael Hackman**, a certified tax specialist, and **Kevin E. Rex** helped a client analyze possible amendment of its stock option plan and agreements in light of new tax laws. In another matter, Michael and Kevin, with assistance from paralegal **Amy Bernardino**, analyzed the ownership history of several commercial properties to determine when they may be subject to reassessment based upon potential upcoming events..



- In a case involving franchise law issues, an opposing party challenged a claim brought against a franchisee under California's Franchise Investment Law. **David Gurnick** and **Nicholas Kanter** persuaded the court that a valid claim was stated and the court let the claim proceed against the franchisee.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **Sue Bendavid** persuaded the court that a defendant's statements forming the basis of our client's claim for defamation, interference and breach of contract were not protected speech and the court ruled the claims can proceed.
- A client of the firm is involved in two cases: a divorce and a separate civil lawsuit seeking money owed to a company the couple owns. The opposing party sought to have the two cases combined before one judge. **Barry T. Harlan** and **Stephen T. Holzer** persuaded the court that the cases are "unrelated" and should stay in separate courts.
- **Nicholas Kanter** obtained a judgment in an unlawful detainer action awarding possession of property to the firm's client, who had bought the property at a trustee's sale.
- **Sue Bendavid** and **Robert A. Hull** helped a client resolve a lawsuit for a nominal amount where an employee claimed sexual orientation discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in the acquisition of commercial real property. The transaction required zoning changes, a lot line adjustment, and obtaining consents from public and private parties.
- **Sue Bendavid** obtained a favorable ruling in a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. A worker claimed he was an employee entitled to benefits. The state agency agreed with Sue that the worker was an independent contractor.
- Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. Sarah also serves as co-Chair for both the San Fernando Valley section and the October Conference committee, where she focuses on providing quality continuing education opportunities for paralegals.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** was re-elected to the executive committee of The Executives, a support group for The Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.
- Paralegal **Amy Bernardino's** article, "*From In-House to Firm: Helpful Tips for Interviewing*", was published as the feature article in the Los Angeles Paralegal Association's monthly newsletter, *Reporter*.
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** volunteered as Family Law Mediators at the Los Angeles Superior Court, helping to settle several family law cases.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** and **Sue Bendavid** attended the Annual Dinner meeting of the Valley Community Legal Foundation. Steve is President of the Foundation and Sue is Immediate Past President of the Bar Association.
- **Nicole Kamm** organized a field trip for the Law Explorers to Pepperdine University Law School. The Explorers toured the campus, attended a Constitutional Law class, and met with a professor and graduate of the school.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** and **David Gurnick's** article, "*Civility Encouraged by Law and State Bar Guidelines*" was published in Valley Lawyer Magazine. The article discusses benefits of remaining civil in litigation and other legal matters.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and his wife Carissa Lee celebrated the birth of their second child, Maxie Jolee Rex.