

June, 2010

Firm Seminars:

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars, in the conference facility at our office, for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next in the series is “**Current Developments in Loan Modifications, Foreclosures, and Short Sales,**” to be held on **Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

If you are interested in attending any future seminar, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

Some Recent Professional and Community Activities of Our Lawyers:

- **Barry T. Harlan** negotiated a buy-out of spousal support to help a client permanently end a spousal support obligation.
- **Michael Hackman** and **Robert A. Hull**, with assistance from **Keith T. Zimmet**, completed the sale of a medical practice. In addition to the usual commercial and health care law issues arising in such a transaction, the transaction had unique tax issues.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **Thomas Cecil** obtained a million dollar settlement for a client who suffered compression fractures in his back when his All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) crashed during a recreational ride. The client tried unsuccessfully to solve his claim directly with the manufacturer for almost two years before retaining our firm. This delay in retaining our firm almost caused the client’s rights to be extinguished by the Statute of Limitations. Acting quickly, our firm was able to preserve the client’s rights from being lost to the Statute of Limitations. Thereafter, discovery and extensive investigation under our firm’s direction, demonstrated that a small clip was missing or installed incorrectly, which caused the front suspension to collapse.
- **David Gurnick** consulted with children of a deceased American of national and worldwide fame, on steps to protect and advance the legacy of their parent.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** represented a client in litigation that is related to the client’s marital dissolution proceeding. At a hearing in the litigation, the Court agreed with Vanessa that the client’s lawsuit is legally sufficient and may proceed separately from the client’s dissolution case.
- An employee claiming wrongful termination, retaliation and unpaid wages demanded \$1,000,000 in settlement from a corporate client of the firm. In a four day deposition **Sue M. Bendavid** exposed conflicts in the plaintiff’s story, and conflicts with written witness statements **Nicole Kamm** had obtained. Sue and Nicole settled the case for a nominal amount, which an insurer paid, equal to the cost of a motion to dismiss.



- **David B. Bobrosky** represented a bus passenger who fell into a pole when the bus stopped abruptly after the driver missed a stop. The passenger suffered a broken hand that did not heal after treatment. David helped the client settle the case for several hundred thousand dollars.
- Previously **Michelle S. Robins** won a court order preventing an opposing party from being alone with a child the opposing party had with the firm's client. The firm's client sought this order for the protection of the child. This month, Michelle successfully defended against the opposing party's motion seeking to end the monitoring requirement.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in negotiating and finalizing an office lease in a high-rise building. Kevin assisted several other clients in structuring potential investments and preparing letters of intent to acquire businesses and properties at attractive values.
- **Tal Grinblat** represented a poultry producer in recording its federally registered trademark with the U.S. Customs Services. This helps prevent infringement by letting the U.S. Customs Service block imports and seize products that infringe the client's trademarks. In another matter, Tal assisted a client in identifying and hiring counsel in New York to quash a government request to seize evidence the government sought in another matter. Within one day, Tal arranged for New York counsel to lawfully block the government's request.
- **David Gurnick** spoke on "Incurable Breaches of Franchise Agreements" at the 43rd International Franchise Association Legal Symposium in Washington D.C. **Tal Grinblat** was a discussion facilitator on the subject of Area Representatives and Developments Agents in the sale of franchises. David was a discussion facilitator on the subject of Best Practices in Dealing with Difficult Franchise Relationships.
- **Robert A. Hull, Sue M. Bendavid, and Kevin E. Rex** co-authored the article "Courts Side with Non-Solicitation Agreements When Narrowly Defined" that recently appeared in the San Fernando Valley Business Journal.
- **Nicole Kamm** presented a seminar on new employment laws to SCORE LA, a nonprofit organization that provides free counseling to new and growing small businesses.
- **Sue M. Bendavid and David Gurnick** presented a seminar for clients and friends of the firm entitled "Top 10 Mistakes Businesses Make, and How to Avoid Them."
- **John B. Marshall** attended the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's training update for arbitrators. For many years John has served as an arbitrator and chairman of three-person panels of arbitrators handling certain disputes for the Los Angeles County Bar Association.
- **David Gurnick** was quoted in the San Fernando Valley Business Journal regarding the impact of budget cuts on the courts and steps to help ease the court's workload.
- **Michael Hackman's** third grandchild, Raphael Moises, was born April 23 in Philadelphia.