

September, 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 most recent seminar in the series, “**Franchising In the Current Economy: Issues and Trends For Franchisors and Franchisees,**” was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

If you are interested in attending a future seminar, please contact Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

Some Recent Professional and Community Activities of Our Lawyers:

- **Andrew L. Shapiro**, obtained a \$1 million settlement (maximum available under the insurance policy) for a 70 year old parent of a 43 year old son. The client’s son died due to negligence of a driver visiting the United States from a foreign country.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Nicole Kamm** of the firm’s Employment Department, helped a client resolve a lawsuit for assault, battery and wrongful termination, within days of responding to the complaint. Sue and Nicole showed misconduct by the plaintiff and discrepancies in the plaintiff’s claims.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** settled a marital dissolution action that was pending for several years, providing finality for the parties. The case involved complex division of executive compensation plans. Because no other participants had previously been divorced, the employer did not know how to divide plan assets. Barry and Vanessa worked with the employer to solve this problem.
- In a litigation matter, **Paul C. Bauducco** won multiple discovery motions and a significant monetary sanction award against the opposing party, substantially reimbursing the firm’s client for the costs incurred.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in negotiating new credit agreements. The multi-million dollar transaction involved numerous credit facilities provided to several affiliated entities in a science related industry. The client previously was with a lender for more than a decade, and had to switch lenders after its prior lender was acquired in a merger and stopped providing the specialized forms of credit.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** represented a client in a disputed custody, child support and spousal support proceeding. Vanessa persuaded the Court to use the client’s most recent income, rather than average income, to calculate support. Vanessa also obtained favorable custody and support orders for the client.



- **Steve Mihalovits** and **David Gurnick** completed the presentation of evidence at an 8-day arbitration conducted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. **Leon Lewitt** and **Kevin E. Rex** provided significant assistance. The claim concerns a client's loss of more than \$1 million in an unsuitable security recommended by a major investment banking firm. Steve and David are preparing final briefs in the matter.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** settled an unlawful detainer case for a commercial client. The settlement included reduced rent for the client and enabled the client to avoid expenses of trial. In another matter, Paul settled a case for an aviation client, also enabling the client to avoid expenses of a trial.
- **Nicole Kamm** helped a client settle two separate wage and hour demands. The first matter was before the Labor Commissioner and was resolved, without a hearing, for significantly less than the initial demand. Nicole was able to convince the plaintiff in the other matter to waive several of the alleged claims and settle for a fraction of the five-figure demand.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** represented an elderly client who fell over a utility box in the middle of a sidewalk. The client suffered shoulder injuries and bruises to his face. Andy and David brought the claim against a city and other defendants, defeated their summary judgment motion, and negotiated a settlement for the client of \$225,000.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in completing the sale of a multi-million dollar commercial property.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in evaluating and negotiating terms to buy a 10 unit area development franchise encompassing several cities in Southern California.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro**, obtained a settlement for a student who was hit by a car while bike riding in the Oakland area. The client suffered serious foot injuries. The driver was exiting a parking lot and using a phone. At a full day mediation, Andy obtained \$250,000 for pain and suffering and \$25,000 for medical expenses and lost earnings, for a total settlement of \$275,000.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** completed a two year term as President of the Valley Community Legal Foundation. The Foundation is a charitable organization of the San Fernando Valley Legal Community, which raises funds for scholarships and grants.
- **Nicole Kamm** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis**, co-founders of the firm's Women to Women group, hosted a professional networking event with Women in the Entertainment Industry at the RobB OPI Concept Salon in Studio City. Participants enjoyed an evening of manicures and making new connections.
- **David Gurnick** was elected Secretary of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. David is completing a term as the Association's Treasurer. David also chairs the Association's Litigation Section.
- **Robert A. Hull** and **Michael Hackman** co-authored an article about administering the estate of a loved one following his or her death. The article can be found on the online site, usobituarieonline.com, at "<https://usobituarieonline.com/pages/legal.php>"