



July, 2011

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Paul C. Bauducco** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** will present "Utilizing Legal Professionals to Avoid Litigation" on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be served and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit. Please RSVP to Chris Podbielski at 818.907.3271 if you would like to attend.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Paul C. Bauducco**, with assistance from Paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, helped a subcontractor obtain payment of over \$700,000 from the owner of a large, commercial project, after the original contractor on the project went bankrupt.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a business client in obtaining attention from the Los Angeles County District Attorney and local media for suspected criminal activity by a public entity. The matter concerned the public entity's refusal to accept the client's low bid for a public contract. Recently the District Attorney informed David that they are now investigating the matter; and suspected misconduct by the public entity has become a subject of media attention.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** helped a client defend a motion for a temporary restraining order, which if granted, would have severely impacted the client's business. The Court heard oral argument and denied the request for the restraining order. In other matters, Sue advised several clients faced with ongoing financial challenges to restructure their businesses, close their doors or lay off employees.
- **Nicholas Kanter** and **Paul C. Bauducco**, with assistance from Paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, obtained a prejudgment right to attach order for over \$500,000 in favor of a client involved in a breach of contract and fraud case. The order allows the client to obtain a writ of attachment against a defendant to secure assets pending final resolution.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in exercising his rights to force the client's joint venture partner in the deal to purchase the client's interest under a joint venture arrangement.
- **Tal S. Grinblat** and **Nicholas Kanter** assisted a client who filed an application to register a trademark, but discovered a third party immediately registered a domain name containing the client's trademark. Upon receipt of a demand letter from the firm, the third party agreed to transfer the domain registration to the firm's client.



- **Kira S. Masteller** and **Robert A. Hull** completed an estate plan for a client's estate to continue care for their animals until the last of the pets died. Kira and Bob set up a special trust, appointed a caretaker of the animals who will also receive benefit from the trust, and provided terms for the trustee to continue to manage the assets for the benefit of the animals. After the death of the last pet, the estate will be distributed to family, friends and charities.
- **David Gurnick** helped a national company terminate a franchisee's agreement due to dishonesty and doing business off-the-books. David gave a presentation on corporate governance and board of director/professional staff relations to a prominent charitable foundation.
- **David B. Bobrosky** of the Personal Injury Department assisted a client of the Firm on a pro bono basis, involved in a minor rear end auto accident. The case did not warrant our full involvement and the client received a reasonable award on her own through the small claims process. The Defendant had insurance and did not pay the award. Rather, his insurance company appealed the award, despite the Defendant's request that they pay so he would not have a judgment on his record. At the appellate level, David officially represented our client - still on a pro bono basis - in a one day court trial against the insurance company attorney and received a judgment in excess of the previous award the client received. Rather than taking responsibility for his actions, the Defendant and his insurance company forced a small case all the way through the system for no reason. There is now a judgment recorded against the Defendant.
- **Kira S. Masteller** drafted a Buy-Sell Agreement for business partners utilizing life insurance that will be paid into the business so that the business will carry on without hardship when a Partner dies, while still providing his or her estate with funds for his share of the business.
- **Michelle S. Robins**, a Shareholder in our Family Law Department, volunteered as a mediator for the Los Angeles Superior Court and helped bring about resolutions in eight separate cases.
- **Stephen T. Holzer, Kevin E. Rex, David Gurnick, Michelle S. Robins, Tal S. Grinblat, Kira S. Masteller, Robert A. Hull** and **Stephan Mihalovits** attended the Valley Community Legal Foundation's annual Law Day fundraiser at CBS Studios. The foundation supports programs to assist children, families, domestic violence victims and others in need; honors achievements of police and fire workers; and provides scholarships to students interested in law-related careers.
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** from our Family Law Department presented a program to a distinguished group of real estate professionals regarding the crossover issues between family law and real estate.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Kira S. Masteller** visited Maurice Sendak Elementary School on behalf of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's diversity committee. Sue and Kira were on a committee which judged an essay contest and the Bar provided savings bonds to the winners.