

BUSINESS GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
- Commercial Finance
- Corporate
- Employment
- Environmental
- Franchise & Distribution
- Health Care
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Tax Planning

CONSUMER GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trusts & Estate Planning

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Year End Tax-Planning: Michael Hackman (Certified Specialist in Tax Law) and Kira S. Masteller will discuss current tax strategies to take advantage of before the new year on Thursday, November 12th. The presentation will take place in our Boardroom and is complimentary for clients and friends. Attorneys and accountants may earn continuing education credits, and a light breakfast will be provided. Contact Chris Podbielski for further information: 818.907.3271 by phone, or cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com.

SEPTEMBER 2015

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Nicole Kamm**, recipient of the **San Fernando Valley Trailblazer Award**, and **Barry Kurtz**, recipient of his second **Trusted Advisors Award**. Both attorneys were honored by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal* at a reception recognizing the outstanding work of Valley attorneys, accountants, bankers and insurance professionals.

Lynn Soodik (Certified Specialist in Family Law) **Sue M. Bendavid**, **Kira S. Masteller**, **Vanessa Soto Nellis** and **Nicole Kamm** have all been recognized in *Los Angeles Magazine* as **Top Female Attorneys in Southern California** for 2015. The selection list appears in the September edition with a special feature, *LA Woman*.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Hannah Sweiss** obtained a dismissal from the Labor Commissioner's office for a client who was accused of not paying an employee all wages that were allegedly owed in a timely manner. After briefing the matter, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement dismissed the claim in its entirety, with no award for the plaintiff.

Tal Grinblat and **David Gurnick** (both Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) worked with a franchisor to conclude a relationship with an unsatisfactory franchisee in New York, transferring the business to an existing franchisee who could be expected to operate the franchise properly.

Keith T. Zimmet served as lead counsel in a multi-million dollar acquisition of a manufacturing company in the aerospace, defense, medical and commercial industries. The multi-state, asset-based transaction involved the acquisition of real property, major industrial equipment, and other personal property assets; the issuance of new equity securities; modification of debt instruments; and the obtention of approvals from local tax authorities.

Barry T. Harlan and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** (both Certified Specialists in Family Law) obtained a substantial attorney fee order, spousal support and child support for a client whose spouse refused to pay any support or attorney fees, despite having assets in excess of \$35 million.

Andrew L. Shapiro and **Thomas Cecil** of our Personal Injury Practice Group obtained a favorable settlement for family members of a gentleman involved in a head-on collision and killed on 29 Palms Highway. Andy and Tom engaged highway design engineers and other professionals to determine that the site was highly dangerous, resulting in multiple head-on, fatal collisions in the past. Due to Andy and Tom's investigation, the state has since installed temporary safety paddles in the center barrier, and has plans to install a permanent cement divider in the near future.



Barry Kurtz (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law), **David Gurnick** and **Samuel C. Wolf**

represented a franchisor that was sued by a terminated former franchisee. Our attorneys showed that the claim lacked any merit and that we would win at trial. Before trial began, the franchisee stipulated to dismiss all claims against our client, as well as to a six figure judgment against itself.

Nicole Kamm resolved several Department of Labor Standards Enforcement claims filed by a client's former employees for alleged unpaid overtime, and meal & rest break penalties. Nicole resolved the claims at the Conference stage for a small fraction of demanded sums, saving our client a significant amount in attorney's fees and potential additional exposure.

Tal Grinblat helped a client resolve a copyright infringement claim over usage of an image taken from the Internet. On another matter, Tal coordinated trademark filings on behalf of a fitness company in multiple countries around the world.

Paul C. Bauducco won a motion for summary judgment for a client involved in a power line project, obtaining a dismissal for our client in a case involving a multi-million dollar claim. In a separate matter, Paul successfully opposed a motion for summary judgment in a real estate case, allowing our client to proceed to trial.

Paul C. Bauducco and **John B. Marshall** opposed a demurrer and motion to expunge lis pendens on behalf of a construction client, prevailing on both and obtaining an attorney's fee award against the defendants who had brought the motion.

Nicholas Kanter assisted a client in obtaining possession of her house by filing an unlawful detainer lawsuit. After obtaining possession, Nick filed a motion to recover the attorney fees and court costs incurred by the client in bringing the lawsuit. The court granted Nick's motion, and awarded the client all attorney fees and costs requested in the motion.

Sue M. Bendavid conducted a series of trainings for several of our clients on various topics important for all employers in California (over 500 people attended in all). Because "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", Sue regularly conducts in-house trainings regarding unlawful harassment, discrimination & bullying; performance management; wage and hour issues; California's new paid sick leave law; and more.

Tal Grinblat, David Gurnick and **Nicholas Kanter** presented an MCLE and CPE accredited seminar entitled, *Bad Reviews? Negative Online Content? How to Fight Back* for area business owners, clients and friends.

Anthony D. Storm was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors at Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Juris Publishing, Inc.

Distribution Law of the United States
- Second Edition

David Gurnick, book author

Law Practice Magazine

(American Bar Association)

Firm Culture: Obstacle or Catalyst
for Strategic Change?

Keith T. Zimmet, quoted

Valley Lawyer

(San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Fun With Trademarks & Copyrights:
Parody, Satire and Lampoon

David Gurnick, author

KPCC: AirTalk with Larry Mantle

Watching Workers: Debating the
Legality of 24/7 Tracking

Sue M. Bendavid, guest

Valley Lawyer

(San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Don't Let Business Clients Become
Accidental Franchisors

Barry Kurtz, co-author

Business Law News Annual Review

(California Bar Business Law Section)

Annual Selected Developments in
Franchise Law

Tal Grinblat, co-author

Valley Lawyer

(San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Transformation of Transgender
Rights in the Workplace

Hannah Sweiss, author

Security Magazine

Court: Social Media Site's
Reference Search Not a
Background Check

Nicole Kamm, author

Family Law Section eNews

(California Bar Family Law Section)

ILIT: The Benefits of an Irrevocable
Life Insurance Trust as Security
for Support

Kira S. Masteller &
Anthony D. Storm, co-authors