

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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Complimentary Seminar:

Michael Hackman, a Certified Specialist in Tax Law (California State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization), **Kira S. Masteller** and **Robert A. Hull** will present a seminar for Year End Tax and Estate Planning in December. A light breakfast will be served, and attendees may earn MCLE or CPE credit. Additional information will be forthcoming.

OCTOBER 2013

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Kevin E. Rex was selected for a *Valley's Most Trusted Advisors* award, by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. **John B. Marshall** and **Keith T. Zimmet** are both past recipients of this award.

David Gurnick represented a client whose son was removed from his new school by administrators. David proved the client and son live in the district. The student was readmitted, but then administrators prohibited him from participating in school sports. David reviewed the rules for athletic participation, showed officials they had no basis for this action, and demanded they let our client's son participate. The school immediately withdrew its action and our client's son was able to rejoin his school athletic team.

Kevin E. Rex worked with a client to complete the sale of a business. Kevin prepared the company for sale, negotiated the engagement letter with the investment banker to locate potential buyers, and negotiated the final definitive agreements with the buyer selected by the client. Our State Bar of California Certified Specialist in Tax Law, **Michael Hackman**, devised strategic structure and tax aspects of the transaction.

Keith T. Zimmet successfully guided a client in the settlement of a dispute arising out of a sale of a business. The controversy was complicated by the death of the majority owner of the selling corporation prior to the facts which gave rise to the dispute. Keith not only obtained the settlement, but facilitated a continuing amicable working relationship between the buying and selling parties.

Kira S. Masteller is preparing a Separate Property Trust for a client preparing to marry. This Trust will keep assets acquired prior to marriage protected in the event of a dissolution. The assets include a family business interest that will revert to the family rather than to the new spouse in the event of the client's death.

Andrew L. Shapiro and **Thomas Cecil** of our Personal Injury Practice Group obtained a six figure settlement for a retired school teacher who suffered a dislocated shoulder in a fall down a stone staircase. The client was attending a quilting workshop held annually on the grounds of a State Park when she lost her footing on a 100 year old, deteriorating, rock staircase. After our lawsuit was filed, park management undertook repairs of the staircase and steps, replacing the worn out rock steps and adding a handrail.



Tal Grinblat registered a copyright for a computer program on an expedited basis, to permit the client

to enter into a strategic relationship with a third party. The client wanted to ensure it had a copyright registration before they entered into an agreement. Through the expedited processing procedure, Tal was able to get the copyright registered in one week.

Nicole Kamm prevailed at a Labor Commissioner hearing regarding a client's alleged unpaid expense reimbursements. Nicole convinced the hearing officer to award Plaintiff nothing by virtue of his complaint.

Paul C. Bauducco and **Nicholas Kanter** prevailed on motions for summary judgment in two unlawful detainer cases, providing the client with judgments of possession on the subject properties.

David Gurnick demanded a foreign-based travel company take down web content unlawfully copied from the website of our client, a prominent U.S. travel agency. Prompted by David's demand, the competitor removed the infringing content. In another matter, David alerted an unsatisfactory franchisee of our client, that the franchise agreement's term was ending and would not be renewed. David helped the client achieve a cooperative transition for the franchisee to stop operating under the franchisor's system.

Tal Grinblat prepared a settlement agreement in a dispute between a quick service restaurant franchisor and its franchisee before the franchisee filed a formal arbitration claim or lawsuit. By resolving the dispute at this stage, the client avoided having to disclose the matter in its Franchise Disclosure Document.

Vanessa Soto Nellis worked with multiple counsel to resolve a complicated dissolution of marriage matter involving Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Nicholas Kanter**, after defeating an anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) motion, filed a motion for an award of attorney fees to reimburse the Firm's client for costs incurred in connection with the anti-SLAPP motion. Sue and Nick demonstrated that "no reasonable attorney" would have filed the anti-SLAPP motion – the Court agreed, and granted the Firm's client the full amount of the fees requested in the motion.

Kevin E. Rex represented an employee in purchasing an interest in the client's employer's business, and negotiating an option to purchase additional interests in the future. In another matter, Kevin worked closely with a client to redevelop a property in Malibu and to negotiate a lease with a national retailer.

Kira S. Masteller was a panelist speaker at a women's conference for members of the Motion Picture Television Fund, entitled, *Deal With It: Taking Charge & Facing Life's Curveballs*.

Nicole Kamm participated in a state-wide conference for the Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA), in which she co-presented legal perspectives for handling common human resources and employee issues. Nearly 2,000 HR executives attend each year.

Lovette T. Mioni is the newest member of our firm, joining our Family Law Practice Group as an Associate. **Barry T. Harlan** is the department's Chair.

Kira S. Masteller has been sworn in as Treasurer of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for the new term, after completing a year serving as a Trustee.

David Gurnick also completed his tenure as President of the Association. All incoming and outgoing Officers and Trustees were recognized at the Association's annual Installation Gala.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Valley Lawyer

Understanding Conflicts of Interest in Estate Planning

by Kira S. Masteller

CNN Entertainment

Jason Patric: Custody Fight is for My Son

Lynn Soodik Interviewed

LA Talk Radio

Broad Topics with Laura Nickerson: Estate Planning

Robert A. Hull Interviewed

Los Angeles Daily Journal

Pre-1978 Works Require Diligent Record-Keeping

by Nicholas Kanter

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Employment Law Roundtable: What Owners & Executives Need to Know

Sue M. Bendavid & David Gurnick quoted

Super Lawyers Magazine

2013 Rising Stars of Southern California named:

Elizabeth A. Erickson
Robert A. Hull
Nicole Kamm
Nicholas Kanter

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Checking In, Checking Out: The Financial Issues in Buying or Selling a Hotel

by Keith T. Zimmet