

February, 2011

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman conducts complimentary seminars in our office for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next in the series, “**Alternative Dispute Resolution: How to Prevent Litigation**” will be held on April 6, 2011, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to attend a future seminar, please contact Michele Avnes at (818) 907-3281, or via e-mail: mavnes@lewitthackman.com.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Andrew L. Shapiro, Thomas Cecil and David B. Bobrosky** of the Firm’s Personal Injury Department filed a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson, Inc. and a subsidiary, alleging they designed, manufactured, and sold a defective metal-on-metal hip implant. The suit has drawn national attention. In another matter, Andy and David obtained a large settlement for a young man who suffered serious leg injuries when he collided with a commercial truck that was improperly stopped in a No Stopping Zone.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** recently negotiated the sale of a well-known manufacturing company which manufactures specialized auto parts. The stock transaction resulted in the original investors of the company achieving desired personal liquidity while maintaining a minority interest in the company.
- **David Gurnick** obtained a favorable settlement for a web company in a domain name infringement case. In other matters, David negotiated new territory agreements for a franchisor, and responded to east coast news media seeking to air an otherwise biased report on one of the firm’s clients.
- **Tal Grinblat** successfully terminated a franchise agreement for a client without having to resort to litigation. This let the franchisee move on to other ventures before the end of the franchise term. Tal also resolved a long standing dispute between a trademark owner and a competitor who was using a similar brand. In the settlement agreement, the competitor agreed to transition to another brand.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client with the sale of a commercial property which was partially seller financed, and helped the client obtain security and a guaranty for the seller’s note. In another matter, Kevin and **Robert A. Hull** assisted a client in structuring a joint venture so that the firm’s manufacturing client could utilize certain trademarks.



- **Nicholas Kanter** helped a client gain physical possession of property purchased at foreclosure. The defaulting owners filed two bankruptcies and two applications for temporary restraining orders to halt immediate possession of the property, but Nick obtained relief from the bankruptcy court and persuaded the superior court to deny the restraining order applications.
- **Nicole Kamm** worked with an employer to transition a worker from an independent contractor to an employee, and obtained a release of any prior claims.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Michelle S. Robins** along with two Family Law Judges presented a program to the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Family Law Section entitled "What's New In 2011? New Judges, New Cases, New Laws". The program was attended by judicial officers from the Los Angeles area as well as family law attorneys, accountants and other family law professionals.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** led a "Round Table" discussion for a client's customers on a variety of employment law topics. Separately, Sue conducted a State Bar of California mandated training program for a large gathering of attorneys on "Elimination of Bias." In addition, Sue published an article in the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, entitled, "Supreme Court Widens Worker Protection," regarding a recent Supreme Court ruling.
- Paralegal **Amy Bernardino** was elected Secretary and appointed Co-Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA). Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** was appointed to a second term on the LAPA Board of Directors and was re-appointed as Co-Chair of LAPA's San Fernando Valley Section. Paralegal **Addie De La Torre** was also appointed as Co-Chair of the San Fernando Valley Section.
- For outstanding public service, **Stephen T. Holzer** received the *Joseph Staller Memorial Service Award* from the Woodland Hills-Tarzana Chamber of Commerce. Steve was also honored for three years of service as Chair of the United Chambers of Commerce.
- **David Gurnick** wrote an article, "Arbitration Decisions in Franchising Cases – They Go Together," published in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.
- **Kira S. Masteller** joined our firm as a Shareholder in our Tax and Estate Planning Department. In addition to tax and estate planning, Kira brings extensive experience advising clients on business asset protection. Kira also serves on the Board of the California Prison Industry Authority.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** became a Shareholder in our firm's Family Law Department. Vanessa joined Lewitt Hackman in 2003. She represents clients in all areas of Family Law, including divorce (division of assets, child custody, child support, and spousal support), domestic violence matters, cohabitation agreements, and prenuptial and post nuptial agreements.