

November, 2011

**Firm Seminars:**

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Michael Hackman**, **Kira S. Masteller** and **Robert A. Hull** of our Tax and Estate Planning Practice Group will present "Year-End Tax & Estate Planning" on December 7, 2011. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewithackman.com, 818.907.3271.

**Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:**

- **John B. Marshall** was recently selected as one of the "Valley's Trusted Advisors" by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. Hundreds of Valley business leaders in banking, insurance, accounting and law attended the ceremony. **Michael Hackman**, **Kevin E. Rex** and **Sue M. Bendavid** were also nominated for the award.
- An article **David Gurnick** authored for *Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine* in 1985, entitled "Consumer Cooperatives, What They Are and How They Work," was cited last month by the California Court of Appeal in a published opinion, *Traudt v. City of Dana Point*. The court cited David's article as authority on the structure of cooperative corporations.
- **Tal S. Grinblat** convinced the Trademark Office to cancel a blocking registration cited against a client's application. Tal's research found that the cited mark, which the Trademark Office claimed was confusingly similar to our client's mark, should no longer be in effect. This allowed our client to proceed with the application without having to file an expensive formal cancellation proceeding.
- **Michael Hackman** and **Robert A. Hull**, working on a pro bono matter, obtained court approval to revise an irrevocable trust that no longer provided sufficient funds for the client.
- **Nicholas Kanter** obtained a dismissal with prejudice of a lawsuit filed against the firm's client. In the early stages of litigation, Nick filed a demurrer to an amended complaint alleging various claims arising from a trustee's sale. Nick persuaded the court that there was no merit to the claims alleged in the lawsuit, and that the plaintiff should not be provided a third opportunity to amend its lawsuit.



- **David Gurnick** represented a provider of art classes in registering to offer and sell franchises. In another matter, David represented the seller of a well-known snack foods manufacturer.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** mediated a dissolution of marriage matter for an internationally located couple. The proceedings were especially challenging because the wife is currently in Australia and the husband is in Italy. In another matter, Vanessa provided counsel for a client to help him understand the terms of his mediation agreement, prior to signing the agreement.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** resolved an age discrimination claim and obtained a full waiver of all claims by convincing the client's former employee to settle for the nominal sum of \$500. Sue has also been conducting management trainings on sex harassment, discrimination and retaliation for other Firm clients. This bi-annual training is mandatory for companies employing more than 50 people.
- **Stephen T. Holzer, David Gurnick, Tal Grinblat** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** attended the Seventh Annual Mayor's Lunch sponsored by the United Chambers of Commerce. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke on a range of City issues at the event. Stephen is Immediate Past Chair of the United Chambers of Commerce.
- **Barry T. Harlan, Michelle S. Robins** and **Kira S. Masteller** led discussion groups for members of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. Barry and Michelle addressed Family Law Issues, and Kira spoke on "Estate Planning During Governmental Chaos."
- **Sue M. Bendavid** gave a presentation to twelfth grade students in Daniel Pearl Magnet High School government classes on the issue of civil liberties, in honor of the victims of 9/11.