



August, 2011

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. Attorneys from our Real Estate and other practice areas will present "Real Estate Foreclosures" on October 5, 2011. A light breakfast will be served and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Sue M. Bendavid** defended a client against a wage and hour claim by individuals who sought wages of \$50,000 and additional waiting time penalties. Through Sue's diligence, the claims were summarily dismissed by the deputy labor commissioner with a finding that no wages were owed to the individuals, and no penalties were imposed.
- **David Gurnick** represented a personal care products company in negotiating an agreement for a representative in Europe to introduce and expand the brand's European retail distribution line.
- **Kevin E. Rex** negotiated an agreement with an investment banker to sell the client's family owned business. In two other matters, Kevin advised a landlord regarding strategies for dealing with a tenant in breach of the tenant's lease, and advised another client in evaluating the best course of action to take in connection with a borrower behind in payments.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** resolved a dispute over a catering truck lease agreement. The lessor entered into the agreement, then refused to perform until our client agreed to additional terms. Stephan presented his legal analysis of the issue to the lessor, and the lessor agreed to cancel the agreement and return our client's \$15,000 deposit.
- **Nicholas Kanter** and **David Gurnick** represented an industrial manufacturing company in defending two unlawful detainer actions brought by the same landlord, at the same facility, enabling the client to remain in possession long enough to complete a wind down of business and auction off equipment. The landlord had sought to evict the tenant before the wind-down and auction could be completed.
- **Kira S. Masteller** prepared a Disclaimer for a client who was due to inherit from his parent's estate when he already has a sizable estate himself. A Disclaimer is a successful tax planning technique that allowed our client to refuse the inheritance from his parents, let it pass directly to his children, and effectively kept those assets from being taxed again in his estate.



- **Kevin E. Rex, Michael Hackman and David Gurnick** analyzed an interesting corporate and trust law question for a client, and determined that a corporation, whose stock is owned partly by an individual, and partly by the same individual acting as trustee of a trust, could meet California law requirements to be treated as having only a single shareholder, thus permitting the corporation to have a one-member board of directors.
- **Sue M. Bendavid and Robert A. Hull** advised a company with offices in several states in providing appropriate notifications under state and federal laws related to a downsizing of its workforce resulting from the sale of a portion of the client's business.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** negotiated an amicable settlement for a client in her divorce without the need for litigation. Although no children were involved, custody of the pets was hotly contested.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro**, civil litigation attorney and Chair of the firm's Personal Injury Department, was interviewed by ABC-7 regarding a potential case against the city by former Dodgers' beating suspect Giovanni Ramirez. In Andrew's opinion, Ramirez will not have a strong case because the police department held him on parole violations and continued to look for other possible suspects. You can watch the interview on the ABC-7 website.
- **John B. Marshall** served as the arbitrator in several Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Bar Association fee arbitration matters, as he has done for many years.
- **Michelle S. Robins**, a Shareholder in our Family Law Department, volunteered along with many other family law attorneys, accountants and mental health professionals at the San Fernando Branch of the Los Angeles Superior Court for their "Settle-O-Rama" program, where Michelle helped mediate several family law cases in an effort to help clear the congestion that has resulted at the courthouse due to budget cuts.
- **Barry T. Harlan and Kira S. Masteller** will be speaking for the Trust and Estates Section of the Orange County Bar Association on August 10th regarding Estate Planning and Family Law Crossover Issues.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** presented a seminar, "How to Use Legal Professionals to Avoid Litigation," to firm clients and area business owners. The seminar covered landlord/tenant issues, what to look for in buy/sell agreements, handling boundary disputes, prenuptial agreements, will and estate planning, and many more topics.
- **John B. Marshall** served on a civil jury trial (no, lawyers are not excused from jury duty) and acted as foreman during deliberations.
- After passing a rigorous examination, Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** was awarded the Certified Paralegal (CP) credential by the National Association of Legal Assistants. Less than half of the paralegals who sit for the exam earn the certification.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** hosted a business networking mixer for professionals from various industries at a local eatery. As attendees dined, the San Fernando Valley professionals had the opportunity to connect and establish new relationships. Elsewhere in the community, Vanessa and **Paul C. Bauducco** also attended a San Fernando Valley Bruin Alumni event.