



January, 2012

**Firm Seminars:**

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics, such as ***New Employment Laws for 2012*** presented by Sue M. Bendavid on January 10<sup>th</sup>. For our next seminar, please refer to future newsletters, mailed seminar invitations, and our website: [www.lewithackman.com](http://www.lewithackman.com).

**Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:**

- Our Firm was selected as one of *Fortune Magazine's Top Ranked Law Firms in the U.S.* based on *AV Preeminent* ratings by Martindale Hubbell. The list appeared in the magazine's *Investor's Guide 2012*, CNNMoney.com and Martindale.com. Less than one-half of one percent of firms across the country were so selected.
- **Lynn Soodik** and **Elizabeth A. Erickson** recently became members of our Family Law Practice Group. Lynn joined us as a Shareholder. She is a graduate of UC Hastings College of the Law and a Certified Specialist in Family Law as designated by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Elizabeth joined us as an Associate. She earned her bachelor's and masters' degrees from Stanford, and her juris doctor from UCLA School of Law.
- **John B. Marshall** guided a client in a year-end closing which included divesting a large company debt obligation, redeeming stock and convertible warrants, and negotiating product licensing agreements. John structured and completed the complex transaction within two weeks, in order to save our clients almost \$100,000 in State income taxes by year-end.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** negotiated the sale of one of the largest independent dental practices in the United States. The multi-million dollar matter involved a national labor union, a large real estate holding company, equipment lessors, lenders, and employment matters related to substantial numbers of dentists, technicians, and management personnel.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** appeared before the Labor Commissioner on behalf of a client whose former employee made a claim for substantial amounts of wages and penalties. Sue persuaded the Labor Commissioner to dismiss the claim entirely.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** defeated a motion for summary adjudication by a Fortune 500 defendant to dismiss punitive damage claims in a fraud case.



- **Kira S. Masteller**, completing estate tax planning for an unmarried client, created a Life Insurance Trust for the client, who plans to marry in the future. The Trust includes provisions for adding future trustees and beneficiaries, while still qualifying as an Irrevocable Trust that will keep the significant life insurance benefit out of the Trustor's estate.
- **David Gurnick**, working with counsel in Texas, assisted a franchisor in requiring a terminated franchisee to de-identify its location in Dallas. In another matter, David advised an industrial licensing company on structuring relationships with licensees to lawfully avoid costly franchise law compliance.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Nellis** resolved a dissolution of marriage matter that had been postponed due to the other side's unreasonable positions. The client was glad to start 2012 with his divorce in order.
- **Tal Grinblat** resolved a dispute for a client in the entertainment business, favorably and quickly. Our client received a cease and desist letter objecting to the use of a trademark on the client's website. Tal persuaded the complaining party to abandon their claim, thereby saving the client time, effort and money.
- **Kira S. Masteller** devised a Business Succession Agreement for investment advisor clients who wish to have their partner carry on their practice in the event of a partner's death, disability or retirement.
- **David Gurnick** represented a long-time client of the Firm in the design consulting business who was accused of trademark infringement by a prominent national brand. David showed opposing counsel that our client's website display of the brand came under fair use guidelines, which prompted the national brand to drop the matter.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and others in our Firm's Employment Law Practice Group are working with clients to update their employee handbooks, due to the many new employment laws that recently went into effect as of January 1, 2012. The Firm highly recommends that you have our Employment Law attorneys review your company's employee policies and handbooks to ensure you are in compliance.
- **Stephen T. Holzer, David Gurnick and Tal Grinblat** presented a seminar regarding trademark rights, logos and proprietary phrases to area leaders of the California Black Chambers of Commerce.
- **John B. Marshall**, by request of several area bar associations, served as an arbitrator in fee dispute matters involving other attorneys. He has also served as a Settlement Officer and Judge Pro Tem.