

June, 2012

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The **Family Law Practice Group** will present **Ten Most Common Misconceptions about Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation** on Tuesday, July 24th. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Please RSVP to cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, or 818.907.3271 if you'd like to attend.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **John B. Marshall** and **Keith T. Zimmet** were named Top Rated Lawyers in Real Estate. The listings appeared in *The National Law Journal*, *Corporate Counsel*, and *The American Lawyer*.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** resolved a \$69 million+ class action against a California transportation company after over 18 months of contentious litigation. **Paul C. Bauducco**, **Nicole Kamm** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** also worked on the case in which *nine* plaintiffs' attorneys represented over 1500 current and former employees who accused our client of not providing meal and rest breaks, and other wage and hour violations. The Court approved a preliminary settlement which will amount to pennies on the dollar of the initial claims.
- **David Gurnick** assisted an advertising agency client in responding economically to a subpoena from a federal court in a class action lawsuit. The client was able to minimize costs as the client is not a party to the federal case. In another matter, David advised a technology patent holder on structuring licenses to reduce the risk of being subject to franchise laws in various states.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** obtained court orders to award our client the property of his choosing, pending the resolution of his divorce. In addition, the separating spouse of the client will be responsible for both her own, and our client's attorneys' fees.
- **Kevin E. Rex** represented a client in acquiring an insurance related business. Kevin negotiated the transaction and worked with the client to ensure a smooth transition. In another matter, Kevin is working closely with a client to prepare the company for sale.
- **Kira S. Masteller** prepared a joint trust for a same-sex couple who decided to register as Domestic Partners with the Secretary of State so they could take advantage of a property tax reassessment exemption and ensure community property treatment for future acquired assets – making their estate planning simpler and cost-effective.



- **Sue M. Bendavid** defended a client accused of committing fraud in connection with a claimed bonus. The employee also claimed she was wrongfully terminated as a result of her alleged work-related injuries. In another matter, Sue represented a client whose employee embezzled a six figure amount from our client, and then pursued a wage claim alleging unpaid overtime. Sue convinced the Labor Commissioner that the wage claim should not proceed.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** successfully defeated an unreasonably high request for spousal support. With assistance of a mediator, the firm's client obtained an agreement that he pay the spousal support amount he originally proposed.
- **Nicole Kamm** defended a firm client at deposition in a wrongful termination claim in which a former employee of the client alleged she was terminated in retaliation for filing for workers compensation.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** defended and settled a lawsuit filed against a business client by a vendor construction company, after our client refused to pay for incomplete and deficient work. Mr. Mihalovits advocated forcefully at a mediation conference and settled the case for half the plaintiff's demand.
- **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** attended the International Franchise Association Legal Symposium in Washington D.C. Tal led a roundtable discussion on expanding brands and avoiding infringements; and David led a discussion on franchise law statutes of limitation.
- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Michelle S. Robins** spoke to the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, regarding the therapists' legal role and obligations regarding divorce, custody and visitation issues. Barry is a Certified Specialist in Family Law, designated by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** was appointed Chair of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's Committee on Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations. The Conference considers and recommends to the Legislature revisions, deletions and additions to the various California statutes; and the San Fernando Valley Bar Committee voices its views on positions the Conference should take.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** provided sexual harassment prevention training for supervisors of several Firm clients. The training sessions are mandated by California law every two years, for employers with 50 or more employees.
- **Michelle S. Robins**, a Shareholder in our Family Law Practice Group, participated in the settlement program at the San Fernando court house. As a Settlement Officer, Michelle helped several parties settle their divorce cases in a single day.
- **Sarah Thrift**, Co-Chair of the Paralegal section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and fellow Paralegal **Addie De La Torre**, recently organized a continuing education program for the Association regarding attorneys' and paralegals' compliance with continuing education requirements.