

BUSINESS GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
- Commercial Finance
- Corporate
- Employment
- Environmental
- Franchise & Distribution
- Health Care
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Tax Planning

CONSUMER GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trusts & Estate Planning

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Complimentary Seminar: New Employment Laws

Sue M. Bendavid, Chair of our Employment Practice Group, and Nicole Kamm will present: ***California Employment Laws – What’s New in 2013?*** on January 16th and 22nd. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: 818.907.3271.

JANUARY 2013

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Lewitt Hackman was named one of *Fortune’s Top Ranked Law Firms in the United States*, for the second consecutive year. The list was compiled by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell for *Fortune Magazine’s* annual *Investor’s Guide*.

Keith T. Zimmet negotiated the sale of substantially all of the assets of an internationally recognized client in the electronic travel industry. The transaction involved hundreds of contracts with hospitality organizations, including resorts, hotels and private clubs throughout the world.

Kevin E. Rex and **Leon Lewitt** of our Corporate Practice Group, negotiated and consummated a multi-million dollar sale of a client’s business to a private equity group. **Sue M. Bendavid** assisted with related employment matters, California State Bar Certified Specialist in Tax Law, **Michael Hackman**, handled the tax issues associated with the transaction, and **Keith T. Zimmet** prepared the parent guarantees.

John B. Marshall, with assistance from **Paul C. Bauducco** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, successfully resolved several lawsuits alleging violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act for a long-term corporate client in the debt collection industry. In telephone communications, including voicemails, debt collectors are required to state that they are collecting a debt, but also can’t leave messages that are heard by third parties, so clients have to walk a very fine line in seeking to collect legitimate debts.

Kira S. Masteller, **Michael Hackman** and **Robert A. Hull**, of our Trusts and Estate Planning Practice Group, helped numerous high net worth individuals make year-end gifts in family owned businesses, investment real estate, promissory notes, vacation homes and other assets to the next generation(s). **Kevin E. Rex** joined with Mike, Kira and Bob, in working with appraisers, accountants and financial advisors in order to maximize the potential estate and gift tax savings associated with making these lifetime gifts.



Barry T. Harlan, a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Family Law, and

Vanessa Soto Nellis obtained a spousal support award for the firm's client where the other side unilaterally stopped providing support and refused to pay any money to help the client with her living expenses.

Kevin E. Rex and **Leon Lewitt** assisted a client in a complex multi-million dollar purchase of a partner's limited partnership interest in a hospital along with the seller's member's interest in the general partner of the hospital. **John B. Marshall** provided healthcare and real estate expertise.

Sue M. Bendavid represented a Firm client sued in a "PAGA" lawsuit (Private Attorney General Act, akin to a wage and hour class action). Sue helped the client's divorce attorney in negotiating the couple's related business holdings, and also achieved a dismissal of the client from the PAGA lawsuit.

David Gurnick worked with clients in getting several corporations dissolved before year-end. Our Firm's clients sold the business assets, or wound down and ended the companies' operations.

Lynn Soodik, a State Bar of California Certified Specialist in Family Law, and **Elizabeth A. Erickson** prevailed in a highly contentious divorce on a motion to enter judgment based on a settlement agreement. Lynn and Elizabeth successfully defended against the other side's motion to set the agreement aside.

Keith T. Zimmet guided a client through the acquisition of a large commercial property in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. Our client previously owned a 50 percent interest in the property, and this transaction completed our client's acquisition of the remaining fifty percent. The matter also involved development agreements and leases with national retail, food service, and fitness companies.

David Gurnick assisted a franchise client in obtaining litigation defense provided by an insurance company. The client brought litigation last year, and was countersued earlier this year. For several months, the insurance company refused to assist in defending the client. David continued to present information and analysis showing the insurer they are obligated to defend, and in December they agreed to do so.

Kira S. Masteller is forming an asset protection plan for a client engaged in dangerous hobbies. The plan includes incorporating businesses, forming LLCs for rental properties, and establishing an irrevocable trust which will own the personal residence.

Kevin E. Rex and **Robert A. Hull** assisted a client in purchasing a partner's general partnership interest in a manufacturing business. In another matter, Kevin and Bob assisted a client in redeeming the interests of one of its shareholders.

Tal Grinblat presented a webinar regarding federal and state franchise laws for the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California. Tal also provided a seminar regarding copyright termination rights for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's Intellectual Property, Entertainment and Internet Law Section.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Super Lawyers Magazine

2012 Southern California Rising Stars

David B. Bobrosky, Tal Grinblat, Nicole Kamm, Kira S. Masteller & Vanessa Soto Nellis named

Los Angeles Magazine

2012 Top Women Lawyers in Southern California

Sue M. Bendavid, Nicole Kamm, Kira S. Masteller, Vanessa Soto Nellis, Michelle Robins & Lynn Soodik named

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Small Business Leadership Awards

Keith T. Zimmet, presenter

Valley Lawyer Magazine

Change of Ownership: What Triggers a Property Tax Reassessment?

by Michael Hackman, Kira S. Masteller & Robert A. Hull

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Supply & Demand: How a Construction Project's Cash Flow Can Leave You Strapped

by Paul C. Bauducco

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Going Postal: Employer Use of Criminal Information in Hiring and Promotion Decisions

by Sue M. Bendavid and Nicole Kamm

Money Week

Blowing It: Mastering the Art of Celebrity Divorce

Lynn Soodik quoted