

FEBRUARY 2014

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

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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The Kurtz Law Group joined our firm on February 1st. **Barry Kurtz** is the Chair of our Franchise Practice Group and brings **Candice L. Lee** and **Bryan H. Clements** as associates. Our Franchise team now has three Certified Specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law, certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, to include Barry, **David Gurnick** and **Tal Grinblat** – making it one of the largest and most experienced Franchise Practice Groups in California.

Hannah Sweiss also joins us as an associate in our Business Litigation and Employment Practice Groups.

Sue M. Bendavid persuaded the Labor Commissioner to entirely dismiss a wage and hour claim prior to hearing. The claimant alleged unpaid overtime, vacation, and expenses in addition to demanding 30 days wages in waiting time penalties. Sue submitted the claimant's resume, job description and other documents to demonstrate the employee was exempt and not entitled to overtime. Sue also submitted copies of text messages proving the company tried to pay the employee on time, but she evaded all our client's attempts to contact her. The advance preparation and documentation led to the summary dismissal.

Barry T. Harlan and **Michelle S. Robins** of our Family Law Practice Group presented a program entitled "What's New in 2014: New Judges, New Cases, New Laws" for the Family Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. The program was well attended and the audience included Judicial Officers, other family law attorneys and business professionals.

Nicole Kamm convinced the Labor Commissioner to dismiss a matter and close the file regarding an audit of a client's wage and hour practices without incurring any fines.

Michael Hackman and **David Gurnick** assisted a corporate client in the product distribution industry that was suspended by the franchise tax board, in reestablishing its active corporate status.

Lewitt Hackman has been designated one of the **2014 Best Law Firms in Los Angeles**, as listed in *U.S. News & World Report*, so recognized for our Family Law and Franchise Practice Groups.

Barry T. Harlan (Certified Specialist in Family Law) was named one of the *Top 100 Attorneys in Southern California*, in *Super Lawyers Magazine*. The publication also recognized some of our other lawyers, including **Michael Hackman** (a Certified Specialist in Tax Law), **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** (Personal Injury), **Michelle S. Robins** and **Lynn Soodik** (Certified Specialists in Family Law), **Stephen T. Holzer** (Environmental), **Sue M. Bendavid** (Employment), **Barry Kurtz**, **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law), and **Kira S. Masteller** (Trusts & Estate Planning).

David Gurnick represented a franchisor in arbitration against a terminated franchisee. The arbitrator granted David's Dispositive Motion issuing an injunction commanding the franchisee to cease operating the terminated restaurants and to pay the firm's client substantial damages.

Nicholas Kanter successfully obtained dismissals of two lawsuits arising from a non-judicial foreclosure sale. In response to the lawsuits, Nick filed a demurrer arguing the lawsuits lacked merit. The Court agreed and entered judgment in our client's favor.

Tal Grinblat assisted a clothing designer in seeking cancellation of a competitor's mark in the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Tal found that the competitor's mark which was cited against our client was a junior user. The cancellation petition therefore asked the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board to cancel the registration on those grounds.

Stephen T. Holzer was reelected to the United Chambers of Commerce Board of Directors.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Nicole Kamm** presented *Employer Defense: California Employment Law Update* to members of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, Vernon Chamber of Commerce, and other business organizations in Los Angeles.

We are pleased to announce that the
Kurtz Law Group joined
our firm's Franchise Practice Group on February 1, 2014,
forming one of the largest and most experienced
FRANCHISE PRACTICE GROUPS in California.



Barry Kurtz*,
Chair



David Gurnick*



Tal Grinblat*



Candice Lee



Bryan Clements

*Certified Specialist, Franchise & Distribution Law
The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

We continue to provide the following franchise services:

- STATE & FEDERAL REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
- FRANCHISE LITIGATION & DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- SALES & PURCHASES OF FRANCHISORS
- FRANCHISOR/FRANCHISEE TRANSACTIONS
- NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE EXPANSION
- DEFENSE OF GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS
- TRADEMARKS & COPYRIGHTS
- TRADE SECRET PROTECTION
- ANTITRUST

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