

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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Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Sue M. Bendavid**, recognized as one of the *Valley 200* by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. The honor highlights the leadership of 200 business professionals in the Valley – those that had the most influence on strengthening the economy and improving the community.

Kevin E. Rex and **Katherine L. Wallman** represented a client in expanding its national presence by acquiring a competitor which operates in five states. Kevin negotiated the asset purchase agreement and real estate leases while Kate worked on the schedules and the ancillary agreements.

Nicole Kamm and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** provided counsel for a client who wished to terminate a high risk employee. Nicole and Tal addressed the concerns by negotiating a nominal severance fee in exchange for a full release of all claims.

Barry Kurtz worked with a franchisor to obtain an agreement for an early termination of a franchisee's agreement, because of the franchisee's unprofitable operating results. In another matter Barry and **Matthew J. Soroky** prepared a Franchise Disclosure Document for a client who recently purchased a well-recognized restaurant chain. Our client intends to franchise the currently regional chain.

David B. Bobrosky represented a client who was hit by a motorist going through a red light at an off ramp, suffering neck, back and hip injuries from the accident. After conservative care, the client received multiple injections for her ongoing pain. Since our client is a business attorney, she initially tried to pursue the claim on her own., but after a year of dealing with the other insurance company without success, she decided to seek experienced representation. Although the insurance company continued to drag their feet, David fully litigated the case and ultimately received a very, favorable six figure settlement after two mediations.

Barry Kurtz, **David Gurnick** (both Certified Specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law) and **Matthew J. Soroky** convinced the Department of Business Oversight (DBO) that a business relationship that the DBO claimed could be a franchise was in fact a license arrangement. Successfully making the distinction is important for our client, whose agreement would not be subject to franchise registration and disclosure laws.

Stephen T. Holzer and **David Gurnick** represented a client in a dispute with a business partner. David and Steve obtained a temporary court order, preventing the other owner from disposing assets of the business, and persuaded the court to deny the other party's request for a reciprocal order. David and Steve will seek to have the order in favor of our client turned into a preliminary injunction to remain in place during the litigation.

Amy I. Huberman and **Nicole Kamm** worked with a client in the pest control industry whose former employee alleged missed meal and rest break violations as well as unpaid overtime. Amy and Nicole negotiated a settlement for about 20 percent of the initial demand in exchange for full release of all claims.

David Gurnick worked with a restaurant franchisor in reacquiring a franchise location at a favorable price, rather than engaging in more costly litigation with an unsatisfactory franchisee.

Tal Burnovski Yeyni was invited to present an update of "bombshell" legislation affecting employers, by the Calabasas Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. Tal's presentation stressed the importance of paying attention to local ordinances, i.e. Los Angeles' Second Chance Initiative, higher minimum wage rates and sick leave benefits – as well as the ever-evolving and pending changes to state legislation.

2017 YEAR-END TAX PLANNING SEMINAR: DO WE HAVE “TAX REFORM”?

We're seeing a lot of talk about reforming the tax code in the news lately. But what does it all mean?

Michael Hackman (Certified Specialist in Tax Law) and **Kira S. Masteller** will present their annual year-end tax seminar, tackling that very question on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**, starting at 8 a.m. The topics will include:

A. Estate Tax Repeal

- What Happens to Gift Tax?
- Have the Basis Rules Changed?
- Why You Need Estate Planning Despite the Repeal.

B. Deductions

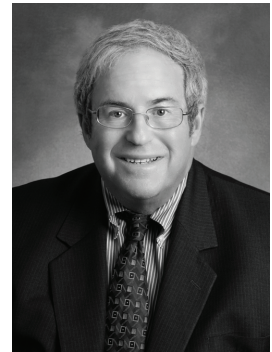
- State Income Tax
- Property Tax
- Medical Expenses
- Limits on Residence Interest

C. Reduced Tax on Pass-Through Businesses

- Partnerships and LLCs
- S-Corporations
- Other Structures
- How Owners Will Be Taxed
- Changing to Pass-Through Entities
- The Kansas Experience

D. Steps to Consider Before Year-End

Lewitt Hackman's seminars are complimentary for our clients and friends. We offer MCLE and CPE continuing education credits, provide a light breakfast, and validate parking. Please RSVP to cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com.



MICHAEL HACKMAN
Chair, Tax and Trust & Estate
Planning Practice Groups



KIRA S. MASTELLER
Shareholder, Trust & Estate
Planning Practice Group

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Corporate Counsel

Why Was Uber's Deal With Otto Out of the Ordinary? - **David Gurnick**, quoted

Business Law Section e-Bulletin (State Bar of California)

Franchising by Duress - **Matthew J. Soroky**, author

Valley Lawyer (San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Acquiring a Business: Ins and Outs - **Kyla A. Parrino**, author

Business Law Section e-Bulletin (State Bar of California)

Beware the Entrepreneurial Landlord - **Matthew J. Soroky**, author

Valley Lawyer (San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Expert Witnesses: Who They Are and How to Vet Them - **Vanessa Soto Nellis** quoted

Los Angeles Daily Journal

New Accounting Rule May Lower Perceived Value of Franchisors - **Barry Kurtz**, author

Valley Lawyer (San Fernando Valley Bar Association)

Confusing Trademarks: The Next Course of Action - **Tal Grinblat**, author