

April, 2011

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Barry T. Harlan, Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** will present "Family Law – The Impact on Your Business," on May 4, 2011 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. RSVP to Chris Podbielski via e-mail: cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com to attend. A light breakfast will be served and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Sue M. Bendavid** was honored as one of the top "Business Women of the Decade," by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. **Keith T. Zimmet, Michelle S. Robins, Nicole Kamm** and **Kevin E. Rex** attended the reception.

Sue M. Bendavid, David Gurnick, Barry T. Harlan, Stephen T. Holzer, Michelle S. Robins and **Andrew L. Shapiro** were selected as "Southern California Super Lawyers" for 2011. The list appeared in *Los Angeles Magazine*. These lawyers, along with **Keith T. Zimmet**, have been named "Super Lawyers" in prior years, with many being named several years in a row.

- **David Gurnick** and **Nick Kanter** obtained a permanent injunction for our client, an international restaurant chain, which required a franchisee to comply with the franchise agreement and reimburse our client for attorney fees. In a separate matter, David secured a judgment in Superior Court to confirm an arbitration award, which allowed an accounting firm to collect substantial past due amounts from their former client.
- **Paul C. Bauducco**, with assistance from Paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, defeated a summary judgment motion by a national corporation defendant, allowing the firm's client to proceed to trial with multiple causes of action for both compensatory and punitive damages.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** defeated a motion for summary judgment brought by a construction firm trying to avoid liability for failing to install bicycle safe grates on Pacific Coast Highway. Our client suffered multiple neck fractures and other serious injuries when his bike was caught in a grate.
- **John B. Marshall** served as a volunteer arbitrator in a fee dispute matter for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. He will also serve on an arbitration panel for the Los Angeles County Bar Association in another matter.
- **Tal Grinblat** sent a cease and desist letter demanding that a poultry industry client's competitor stop using our client's registered trademarks on products. The competitor agreed to stop immediately.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Stephan Mihalovits** obtained a three year restraining order against a client's former employee, fired for threatening a co-worker. In retaliation, the terminated employee filed two Applications for Temporary Restraining Orders against our client's employees. The court dismissed the applications and ordered the former employee to pay our client's attorney fees.
- **Nicole Kamm** negotiated the settlement of a sex discrimination claim for less than \$900 and obtained a general release of all claims.



- **Kevin E. Rex** helped a client sell stock in his manufacturing, importing, and distribution business. The multi-million dollar deal involved a real estate lease and extensive negotiations with the buyer's bank to finance the transaction.
- **Kira S. Masteller** is working with a client to reduce his taxable estate through gift tax planning, which will allow the client to remain in control of assets, reduce the amount of estate tax upon client's death and accumulate wealth for the children in trusts protected from spouses, creditors and from future estate and generation skipping taxes.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** and **David Gurnick** assisted a client in settling a dispute with the client's brother over large unpaid debts. The brother filed multiple bankruptcies. Stephan and David showed that the brother engaged in fraudulent transfers of property and concealed assets.
- **Robert A. Hull** and **Kevin E. Rex** helped a client launch a business venture by drafting numerous agreements related to the manufacture and distribution of brand-name clothing items.
- **Tal Grinblat** persuaded the U.S. Trademark Office examiner to refuse a trademark application similar to a jewelry distributor's registered mark, saving our client the time and monetary costs of formally opposing the application.
- **Michelle S. Robins** obtained a settlement for a client that addressed child custody, spousal support, child support and property division issues after months of negotiations in a contested marriage dissolution. Michelle successfully defended another client in Court against efforts of an ex-spouse to wrongfully freeze the client's bank accounts.
- **Robert A. Hull** resolved a long-standing dispute between our custom paint and design client, a contractor, and a restaurant owner, over numerous unpaid invoices for services provided by our client.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** persuaded a judge to dismiss a contempt request against a Family Law client, based on a due process violation suffered by our client.
- **Michael Hackman**, with assistance from Paralegal **Amy Bernardino**, closed the sale of a retiring physician's medical practice under severe time constraints.
- **Maurice Lewitt** and **Michelle S. Robins** presented a program on the Holocaust to students at a local middle school. The program was informative and moving for the students and presenters.
- **Barry T. Harlan** spoke to the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA), presenting a seminar entitled "2010 Family Law Update: New Judges, New Cases, New Laws, New Forms." Paralegals **Sarah Thrift**, **Addie De La Torre** and **Amy Bernardino** organized the event for LAPA's continuing education program.
- **Stephen T. Holzer**, **David Gurnick** and **Tal Grinblat** conducted a seminar for the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley, on trademark protection for chambers of commerce.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** lectured at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications on "Communications in the Workplace." A client of the firm also asked Sue to lecture to the client's customers regarding "California Employment Laws for 2011."
- Paralegals **Sarah Thrift**, **Addie De La Torre** and **Amy Bernardino** organized a continuing education program for the Los Angeles Paralegal Association's San Fernando Valley section on ethical issues in social networking research.