

September, 2012

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Michael Hackman**, a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Tax Law designated by the Bar's Board of Legal Specialization, **Kira S. Masteller** and **Robert A. Hull**, will present: **2012 Year-End Tax and Estate Planning** in December. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Further details will be forthcoming.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Keith T. Zimmet** was named one of the *Valley's Most Trusted Advisors* by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal* for his dedicated client service and commitment to overall excellence.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** and **Sue M. Bendavid** were featured as *Top Business Attorneys* in the *2012 Super Lawyers Business Edition*. Culled from a pool of attorneys from over 8,500 firms across the nation, Steve was named for his work in Environmental Law, and Sue for her work in Employment Law.
- **Kevin E. Rex** has been rated *AV 5.0 Preeminent* by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating awarded by peers of the bar and judiciary for legal knowledge, analytic capabilities, judgment, communication ability and legal experience.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** successfully settled a lawsuit for a contractor involving a public project. Paul was able to get the opposing party to accept the "best case" value of the contractor's counterclaims, reducing the client's liability by nearly 50 percent.
- **Kira S. Masteller** and **Michael Hackman** are establishing Irrevocable Trusts for clients to transfer LLC & Partnership interests, Stock and other investments to their children – removing assets from the parents' estate – maximizing the per person 2012 Lifetime Gift Tax Exemption of \$5,120,000. Mike and Kira are also assisting clients with other methods of utilizing the gift tax exemptions, or otherwise reducing their potentially taxable estates.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** helped several clients conduct alternative workweek elections, which are procedures allowing employers and employees to enter agreements to have compressed workweeks (*i.e.* four 10-hour days) without triggering overtime obligations.
- **Lynn Soodik, Barry T. Harlan** and **Elizabeth A. Erickson** obtained temporary restraining orders that required the spouse of our client to move out of the family residence. The court also granted our client sole legal and physical custody of the couple's children with supervised visitation to the spouse of our client.



- **Nicholas Kanter and David Gurnick** won summary judgment for a client in United States District Court. The Firm's client had been sued for alleged fraud and breach of an earlier Settlement Agreement. Nick and David's summary judgment motion showed the court that no fraud or breach could have occurred, and the court dismissed the case against our client.
- **John B. Marshall and Paul C. Bauducco**, with assistance from **Paralegal Sarah Thrift**, settled a pending litigation matter and obtained clear title to real estate on behalf of a Firm banking client, without the necessity of a hearing on a petition to release a mechanic's lien.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro and Thomas Cecil** of our Personal Injury Practice Group settled a case during trial. The insurance company had refused to offer a fair amount to settle the case, so the Firm proceeded to trial. During trial, the insurance company more than doubled its prior offer and the case settled. This is another example of how the Firm is able and willing to take cases through trial to either increase the settlement value or obtain a successful verdict.
- **Tal Grinblat** successfully arranged for the takedown of internet sites of our client's competitor, and also arranged for the transfer of competing domains to the client at no cost, a result of Tal sending a cease and desist letter notifying the competitor of the client's registered trademark.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** conducted in-house training for a client's top executives on employment law compliance in a variety of legal areas, including: wage and hour, leaves of absence, termination procedures and performance management. For other clients, Sue conducted mandatory sexual harassment prevention training for supervisors. Under AB 1825, companies with 50 or more employees are obligated to provide this training every two years.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** obtained full payment for a client whose vendor failed to pay its debt owing to our client. Through correspondence explaining the legal and financial consequences, Stephan persuaded the vendor to pay the entire balance, without ever filing a lawsuit.
- **Kevin E. Rex** finalized a lease for a local landlord, after extensive negotiations with a national retailer. Kevin is also currently working with several clients on the sale of their family owned businesses.
- **Nicole Kamm and Sue M. Bendavid** disputed a claim for unemployment insurance filed by a former employee of a client who voluntarily quit employment while work was available. In another matter, Nicole worked with a client to address a Labor Commissioner claim for alleged unpaid overtime filed by an outside sales employee.
- **Kira S. Masteller** is filing a Petition for Instructions, Approval of Trust Accounting & Approval of Final Distribution, on behalf of the Trustee of a Trust where one of the four beneficiaries is contesting the distribution provisions of the Trust and the accounting.
- **Barry T. Harlan and Vanessa Soto Nellis** obtained a spousal support order for a client whose spouse refused to pay any voluntary support to her, despite a lengthy marriage in excess of 30 years.
- **Nicole Kamm** was a featured co-speaker at the *2012 Annual Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA) Conference* in Orange County, attended by hundreds of Southern California HR professionals. Nicole teamed up with a workplace mediator to present "Five Common HR Issues – A Legal & Interpersonal Perspective," addressing employee complaints, reviews and terminations, and potential issues that can arise when these matters are not handled or documented properly.