

## 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: Environmental Legislation

**Stephen T. Holzer**, Chair of our Environmental Practice Group, will present *Latest Environmental Legislation: How it Affects Business & Property Owners*, in June. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Further details will be forthcoming.

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MARCH 2013

*Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments*

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**Kevin E. Rex** represented a client in the sale of his accounting practice. **Keith T. Zimmet** also worked on the seven-figure transaction preparing various security documents. In another matter, Kevin assisted a company and its shareholders in taking the necessary steps to reacquire the company's stock held by a recently terminated employee.

**Sue M. Bendavid** defended a client in the telecommunications industry against a 60+ page complaint that asserted all manner of wage & hour, discrimination, harassment and other employee claims (including potentially class action wage claims). In just a few phone calls, Sue showed the opposing attorney the numerous defects in his analysis and demonstrated there was no legal or factual basis for the majority of his claims. This saved the client hundreds of thousands in potential litigation.

**John B. Marshall** successfully represented a public agency client in a contested court hearing regarding the distribution of assets of a dissolving nonprofit corporation. John has worked as general counsel for this client for over 20 years.

**David Gurnick's** article, *Consumer Cooperatives: What They Are and How They Work*, published in 1985, has been cited and quoted in several recent California Court of Appeal decisions. Most recently, the Court of Appeal quoted David's article in *People ex rel City of Dana Point v. Holistic Health* (Feb. 13, 2013). Appellate lawyers and the Courts have referred to David's work for guidance on activities that qualify a business organization as a "cooperative."

**Nicole Kamm** worked with a client to implement various commission agreements for exempt outside salespeople and certain nonexempt employees – ensuring provisions regarding when commissions are earned, when paid, and what happens on termination – were carefully drafted to minimize the risk of potential claims.

**Paul C. Bauducco** defeated an opposing party's motion in an adversarial action in a bankruptcy court to extend a discovery cutoff, which saved our client significant costs and kept the matter on track for trial.



**Sue M. Bendavid** resolved two jointly filed complaints for retaliation and overtime for a small fraction of the amounts claimed by a former employee of a client. Sue is now working with the client to ensure legal compliance so that the client can avoid similar claims by other employees.

**David Gurnick** and **Tal Grinblat**, Certified Specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law (California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization), have been assisting franchisor clients to update their Franchise Disclosure Documents and apply to renew their registrations to offer and sell franchises.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** resolved a dissolution of marriage matter in which the opposing party continued to take unreasonable positions. After lengthy negotiations and the assistance of a judicial officer, the parties were able to come to an amicable resolution and avoid a lengthy trial.

**Tal Grinblat** resolved an intellectual property dispute and reached an agreement with a globally-known French jeweler, to allow our client's U.S. trademark application to proceed without opposition or contest.

**Kira S. Masteller** is helping clients who did not complete the administration of their parents' trust in a timely manner, by working with the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office to have a Claim for Reassessment Exclusion for Transfer Between Parent and Child (pertaining to real property) approved. This will allow the reversal of a Supplemental Property Tax which was assessed when the property sold four years after the deaths of the clients' parents, resulting in a significant refund for our clients.

**Tal Grinblat** worked with a client in the online music industry to identify competitors using similar names and logos in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and China. Tal also assisted the client register and protect their trademarks in several countries, via the Madrid Protocol.

**Kira S. Masteller** completed an estate and gift tax plan that combined the use of irrevocable gift trusts and LLCs for three generations of a family whose business made up a significant portion of the assets. Gifts of LLC interests reduced the taxable estates for the two older generations. The gifts via Irrevocable Trusts to members of the youngest generation allow the assets to be managed on their behalf until they reach financial maturity and can manage the assets for themselves.

**Nicole Kamm** structured a consultant relationship for a Firm client, to include an independent contractor agreement containing detailed provisions regarding confidentiality and trade secrets.

**Sue M. Bendavid** co-presented a seminar for clients of a major business insurance provider on new employment laws in California. The presentation was aimed at helping business owners comply with constantly evolving employment law.

**Barry T. Harlan**, a Certified Specialist in Family Law (California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization) and **Michelle S. Robins** presented a program entitled, *What's New in 2013: New Judges, New Cases, New Laws*, for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's Family Law Section. The program was well-attended and the audience included Judicial Officers, other family law attorneys and business professionals.

## PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

### **Los Angeles Lawyer**

*The Nation's First: LRIS Helps Thousands of Callers with Legal Problems Find Attorneys*

Stephen T. Holzer commended

### **Los Angeles Daily Journal**

*Combat Delay Tactics in Unlawful Detainer Lawsuits*

by Nicholas Kanter

### **Los Angeles Magazine**

*2013 Southern California Super Lawyers*

Sue M. Bendavid, David B. Bobrosky, Tal Grinblat, David Gurnick, Michael Hackman, Barry T. Harlan, Stephen T. Holzer, Michelle S. Robins, Andrew L. Shapiro and Lynn Soodik named

### **Super Lawyers Magazine**

*Southern California Top 100*

Barry T. Harlan designated one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers of Southern California

### **Corporate Counsel**

*2013 Top Rated Lawyers in Healthcare*

John B. Marshall named

### **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