

December 2012

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Sue M. Bendavid**, Chair of our Employment Practice Group, and **Nicole Kamm** will present: **California Employment Laws – What's New in 2013?** on two separate dates: January 16th and 22nd. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Contact Chris Podbielski, 818.907.3271 or cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, to RSVP or for more information.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Lewitt Hackman** will be named by *Fortune Magazine* and LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell as a *Top Ranked Law Firm in the U.S.* for the second consecutive year. Less than one percent of the more than 250,000 national firms considered will appear in *Fortune's 2013 Investor's Guide* published at the end of the month.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** recovered lost earnings and profits, fringe benefits, health care costs and reimbursements, as well as a substantial six figure recovery for pain and suffering damages, in a settlement for a client who fell at a national, specialty grocery store. The dangerous condition of the floor caused our client injuries that required surgery. Mediation proceedings were unsuccessful, though the Defendant chose to settle at the last minute, when that side realized Andrew and David were fully prepared to go to trial.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** defeated a \$300,000 wage claim filed by a former employee of our client at the Labor Commissioner's office. Sue persuaded the deputy that the claimant's demands were so exaggerated and without evidentiary support, that they should be summarily dismissed.
- **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** secured a competitor's commitment to stop making trademark use of our client's brand and domain name. After litigating on his own against the competitor in Federal Court, the client finally consulted Tal and David, who suggested an alternative strategy that immediately persuaded the competitor to stop using the mark.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** was able to quickly and economically settle clients' claims against former insurance brokers for damages through mediation, without having to file a lawsuit. The clients were improperly sold life insurance policies for resale.



- **David Gurnick** assisted a client who receives a large volume of toll-free calls, in renegotiating a long term services agreement with a long distance telephone services provider. The phone company tried to increase rates after an agreement had been signed. David assisted the client in objecting to the increase and negotiating new terms.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** obtained dismissals of seven wage claims filed by a group of employees who banded together to accuse their employer of not paying overtime and denying meal and rest breaks. The Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement summarily dismissed all the claims upon hearing the evidence Sue compiled.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** settled a reimbursement lawsuit filed against a client of the Firm who obtained a large personal injury award, for far less than the claimed subrogation amount – allowing the client to retain an annuity payment important to the client's support.
- **Tal Grinblat** assisted a U.S. based company in the watch and jewelry business in resolving a trademark dispute with a large company based in France. Tal helped the client reach a favorable resolution which included obtaining an agreement from the French company not to oppose or contest our client's marks.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** resolved a dissolution of marriage matter by working with opposing counsel to obtain a quick, amicable resolution. No court intervention was needed, and our client was pleased he was able to obtain a peaceful resolution.
- **Kira S. Masteller** coordinated an estate plan with a premarital agreement for a business client, so that the business and its future earnings will continue as our client's separate property in the event of a divorce eliminating the possibility of careless comingling.
- Paralegals **Sarah Thrift** and **Addie De La Torre**, active with the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's Paralegal Section, hosted a seminar for section members entitled, "Organizing a Limited Liability Company."
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** was listed a *2012 Top Attorney in Family Law* in *Pasadena Magazine*.
- **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** attended the annual American Bar Association Forum on Franchising. Tal and David are both certified by the State Bar of California as Specialists in Franchising and Distribution Law – among only 42 attorneys in the State to earn this distinction.
- **John B. Marshall** spoke to the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's Business Law Section regarding the advantages and disadvantages of various forms of business organizations in California. John made his presentation at the SFVBA's new Tarzana location, for which John represented the SFVBA in lease negotiations.
- **Keith T. Zimmet, Paul C. Bauducco, Stephen T. Holzer, Sue M. Bendavid, Tal Grinblat, David B. Bobrosky, Robert A. Hull, Nicholas Kanter, Stephan Mihalovits** and **Elizabeth A. Erickson** attended the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal's* "Small Business Leadership Awards". Keith was one of six business leaders who participated on the advisory committee to select the winners.