

July, 2012

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Barry T. Harlan**, a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Family Law designated by the Bar's Board of Legal Specialization, **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis**, will present the ***Common Misconceptions about Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation*** on Tuesday, July 24th. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Please RSVP to cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, or 818.907.3271 if you'd like to attend.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Andrew L. Shapiro, Thomas Cecil, and David B. Bobrosky** of our Personal Injury Practice Group obtained a sizable seven figure settlement for a client who suffered cervical fractures that required two spinal surgeries, when his bicycle got caught in a storm grate along Pacific Coast Highway. A contractor hired by the City of Malibu installed the grates incorrectly, causing the bicycle tires to jam. As a result of our Firm's efforts, the city also repaired all the storm grates along this stretch of the PCH to prevent future accidents of this nature.
- **Nicholas Kanter** prevailed on three motions to compel discovery in an adversary proceeding in bankruptcy court. When an adverse party refused to provide requested information to our client, Nick filed motions asking the bankruptcy court to order the adverse party to comply with the request. The court granted all three motions, and awarded our client almost \$5,000 in monetary sanctions.
- **Tal Grinblat** acquired an existing trademark in Australia for a client in the music streaming industry, which was blocking the client's own trademark application in that country. The acquisition now allows the client's trademark application to move forward.
- **David Gurnick**, who is certified by the State Bar Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Franchising and Distribution Law, assisted a restaurant franchisee in an unusual transaction in which the franchisee agreed to sell its business to an adverse party in litigation.
- **Michael Hackman**, a Certified Tax Specialist as designated by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization, and **Kevin E. Rex**, have been working with several family owned businesses regarding potential tax implications in the event of an owner's death. Mike and Kevin have implemented advanced planning measures to help ensure the continued survival and success of the family business.
- **Lynn Soodik** of our Family Law Practice Group was interviewed by KFVB News Talk Radio regarding the recent filing of divorce by Katie Holmes from Tom Cruise. Lynn is a Certified Specialist in Family Law as designated by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization, and is often interviewed by local and national media regarding celebrity divorce matters.



- **Kevin E. Rex** has been working with our client, a family owned commercial real estate business, and other real estate professionals, to redevelop several commercial properties. Recently, Kevin assisted the client in obtaining approval for a variance from the City of Malibu.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro, Thomas Cecil, and David B. Bobrosky** obtained a substantial settlement for a client who was asked as a personal favor, to assist his boss in moving a glass tabletop from the boss's private residence. While moving the tabletop, the glass shattered and severely cut our client's hand and wrist, causing debilitating muscular damage.
- **Michelle S. Robins**, a divorce and divorce mediation attorney in our Family Law Practice Group, obtained a restraining order on behalf of a client who was being harassed both at home and at work, by an individual he's never met in person. Michelle, who is very active in community legal efforts, also recently volunteered as a family law mediator at the Los Angeles Superior Court to help several parties settle their dissolution cases.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** resolved a dispute between a client and an employee who stormed into her boss's office, abruptly resigned from her position, walked off her job, and then subsequently alleged she was owed bonuses and was forced to quit.
- **Tal Grinblat** assisted a market research company who recently underwent new branding to protect its various marks, slogans and designs. In another matter, Tal also protected a core trademark brand nationally and internationally, for a citrus association.
- **Kira S. Masteller** established a Spousal Access Life Insurance Trust which allows life insurance on the husband to be owned by an Irrevocable Trust for the benefit of the wife and children during the husband's life. The wife and children can access the cash value of the policy as needed for support or education during the husband's life. On the husband's death the policy benefit will be distributed to the trust and continue for the wife and children, but is never included in either husband or wife's estate for estate tax purposes.
- **Barry T. Harlan and Vanessa Soto Nellis**, with assistance of forensic accounting experts, resolved a contentious divorce, obtaining a prompt and equitable settlement for a Firm client.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a franchisor of portable storage containers to register, offer and sell franchises in several states. In another matter, David assisted a franchisor in preparing an earnings claim to include in the company's registered franchise disclosure document.
- **Tal Grinblat** was re-appointed to serve as Vice Chair, Legislation of the Franchise Law Committee of the State Bar of California Business Law Section for the 2013 term. The Franchise Law Committee is tasked with formulating legislation to advance the interests of franchisees and franchisors in California. Tal is also a Certified Specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law as designated by the Board of Legal Specialization for the State Bar.
- **Kira S. Masteller** was appointed Chair of the Trusts & Estates Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.
- **Sue M. Bendavid and Nicole Kamm** are conducting Supervisor Sex Harassment Prevention Training for several Firm clients. Under California law, companies employing 50 or more employees must provide two hours of training every two years, as well as training for new supervisors within six months of the employee's start date.