



MAY 2023

## Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

### BUSINESS PRACTICE GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
- Commercial Finance
- Corporate
- Employment
- Environmental
- Franchise & Distribution
- Health Care
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Tax Planning

### CONSUMER PRACTICE GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trust & Estate Planning

818.990.2120

lewitthackman.com

16633 Ventura Boulevard  
Eleventh Floor  
Encino, California 91436

Congratulations to **Tal Grinblat** (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law), named a Legal Eagle by *Franchise Times Magazine*. According to the magazine, recognition is based upon recommendations by clients, peers, and other professionals. Tal has been selected for this award every year since 2014.

**Sue M. Bendavid** represented a client in conducting a reduction in force and preparation of severance packages. With Sue's help, the Company analyzed its workforce to determine layoffs due to unfortunate financial losses impacting the company.

**Kira S. Masteller** and **Kyla A. Parrino** set up Limited Liability Companies for multiple real properties purchased by a family who will share ownership of each property. The LLC protects the owners from each other's creditors and limits the liability for each property solely to the equity of the property in that LLC. This type of creditor protection planning is significant for multi-unit rental properties, particularly when a family member "owner" is married and the spouse is not authorized to become an owner of the property or LLC.

**Nicholas Kanter** prevailed in an unlawful detainer lawsuit filed against a former employee of our firm's client. The client permitted the defendant to reside in a property as part of the defendant's employment. After the employment ended, the defendant refused to vacate. Nick filed a motion for summary judgment, and on the day before the hearing, the defendant vacated the property, allowing our client to recover possession.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Certified Family Law Specialist) represented a client regarding a prenuptial agreement that allowed the parties to define which assets and income acquired during the marriage would be community property, and which would remain separate. The agreement also contained agreed-upon spousal support.

**Keith T. Zimmet, Steven L. Feldman, and Sue M. Bendavid** represented our client in its corporate acquisition of a nationally known manufacturer and supplier of professional-grade, eco-friendly specialty pool chemicals. The acquisition expands our client's product portfolio and geographic reach across the continental U.S. In addition to drafting and negotiating the Stock Purchase Agreement and its ancillary agreements, the transaction involved analyzing and resolving various environmental, employment, and tax issues.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Caitlyn Dillon** identified an infringer using a client's trademark to operate a nearly identical business. Tal and Caitlyn contacted the infringer, demanding the immediate removal of all references to the trademark on the infringer's website and social media pages. After the infringer's initial refusal and continued reluctance to comply with the demand, Tal and Caitlyn contacted the infringer daily for three weeks until all references to our client's trademark were removed. This approach resolved the matter without filing a lawsuit and seeking injunctive relief.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** successfully resolved a multi-jurisdictional trademark dispute on behalf of a restaurant industry client, ending several years of legal proceedings between the parties on favorable terms for our client.

**Andrew L. Shapiro, Thomas Cecil, and David B. Bobrosky** of our Personal Injury Practice Group represented a pedestrian struck by a motorist while in a crosswalk. While it seemed our client had mostly recovered from her physical injuries, her family noted her personality was different. Andy, Tom and David arranged for state-of-the-art testing and scans, which revealed an objective traumatic brain injury. They had her treated at a world-class brain injury rehab facility, and the case settled for multiple millions of dollars, allowing the client to continue receiving the treatment she needs.

**Barry Kurtz** and **Matthew J. Soroky** (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) are preparing Franchise Disclosure Documents for separate clients franchising a martial arts studio, and a unique pizza take-out concept.

**Nicholas Kanter** and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** worked with a client in resolving a lawsuit alleging Labor Code violations and breach of contract. After lengthy negotiations, Nick and Tal were able to get the lawsuit dismissed by way of settlement, with our client receiving the desired resolution.

**Kira S. Masteller** completed a settlement between our client, the child of his deceased parent, and the deceased parent's spouse, related to the administration of the deceased parent's separate property trust, which the surviving spouse disputed contained community property. Thanks to the settlement, the parties avoided court.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** worked with a client with a name change. The client never took her spouse's name and later decided she wanted to, as it was easier with small children to have the same last name.

**Matthew J. Soroky** resolved a dispute between our franchisor client and a former franchisee who claimed the franchisor violated a franchise sales statute. Our client's defenses played a significant role in reaching a settlement far below the franchisee's demand.

**Kira S. Masteller** successfully resolved a property tax reassessment appeal for a pre-Proposition 19 transfer of real property from parents to children, which, in 2021, was wrongfully reassessed. Our clients are receiving a full refund of the additional amounts charged by Los Angeles County and paid by our clients pending the appeal. In a separate matter,

Congratulations to Family Law's **Nancy Martinez** and her partner Angel, on the birth of their first child, Abigail. All three are doing very well.

**Andrew L. Shapiro** represented a passenger in a rideshare vehicle struck by a hit and run driver. Andy obtained a nearly seven figure settlement for our client, from an uninsured motorist insurance policy covering the rideshare driver.

**Kyla A. Parrino** and **Kira S. Masteller** petitioned the Court to modify an irrevocable charitable trust's very restrictive Trustee provisions so as to allow its administration to be achievable following the death of the Trustor, without disqualifying its 501c(3) status. In a separate matter, Kyla and Kira successfully petitioned the Court to obtain emergency Special Letters of Administration before a decedent's estate Probate hearing to allow a critical longtime civil litigation settlement proceeding to be completed on behalf of the decedent.

**Sue M. Bendavid** spoke on the Fundamentals of the Family and Medical Leave Act for Managers for Lorman, a nationwide company offering its clients educational webinars. Sue also presented a seminar for "VICA University" for the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. Sue spoke on the 2023 statutes impacting employers and recent employment law appellate decisions all employers need to know.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** now serves as President of The Executives, a group of business and community leaders supporting Los Angeles Jewish Health, which provides care and services to thousands of seniors in our community.

**John B. Marshall** and **Sue M. Bendavid** spoke to managers and sales employees of a client during their annual meeting. John talked about anti-trust issues and how anti-trust law impacts sales workers, while Sue spoke about the top 10 issues managers face when dealing with subordinate workers.

## Publications & Media Mentions

### **San Antonio Lawyer**

*The Trial of Sam Sheppard - Part 2  
The Trial*

**Mark J. Phillips**, co-author

### **The Registry - SoCal Real Estate News**

*Lewitt Hackman Renews 23,404 SQFT  
Office Lease in Encino*

**Keith T. Zimmet**, quoted

### **Los Angeles Daily Journal**

*Viking River PAGA ruling has no clear  
destination for employers*

**Tal Burnovski Yeyni**, author

### **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**

(San Fernando Valley Bar  
Association) *2023 Leaders of  
Influence: Trusted Advisors*

**Barry Kurtz** named

### **Valley Lawyer** (San Fernando Valley Bar Association) *Survivorship Rules:*

*Simultaneous Death and their  
Unequal Application*

**Mark J. Phillips**, author

### **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**

*Labor & Employment Roundtable  
January 2023*

**Sue M. Bendavid**, participant

### **Los Angeles Daily Journal**

*A Small Bright Line in the Murky Law  
of No Contest Clauses*

**Mark J. Phillips**, co-author

### **The Franchise Lawyer**

*Starstruck and Star-Stricken: When  
Celebrities Buy and Sell Franchises*

**Matthew J. Soroky**, author

### **San Antonio Lawyer**

*The Trial of Sam Sheppard - Part 1  
The Crime*

**Mark J. Phillips**, co-author

### **Los Angeles Daily Journal**

*Amendments to California franchise  
laws in the New Year*

**Barry Kurtz** and **Matthew J. Soroky**,  
authors

### **Valley Lawyer** (San Fernando Valley Bar Association) *California's New Motor*

*Vehicle Board: Representing Car  
Makers and Dealers*

**David Gurnick**, author