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BUSINESS PRACTICE GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
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- Franchise & Distribution
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- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
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CONSUMER PRACTICE GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trust & Estate Planning

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JULY 2025

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Barry Kurtz** selected to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's Valley 200*. This honor recognizes Barry as one of the San Fernando Valley's most influential leaders for 2025.

Congratulations to **Janet Lim** on earning her Master of Laws (LL.M.) in taxation from Loyola Law School. Janet received her J.D. from Loyola as well, and currently works with our Trust and Estate Planning Practice Group.

Barry Kurtz and **Matthew J. Soroky** (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) are evaluating franchise documents for our client interested in entering the carpet cleaning business. In a separate matter, Barry, Matt, and **Thomas M. Morrow** are defending a service company against claims by a current partner alleging violations of franchise registration and disclosure laws during the formation of their business relationship. In another case, the three attorneys are representing a food franchisor in a dispute with a franchisee who has been closing restaurants without the franchisor's knowledge or consent. Our client is also seeking to recover a substantial amount of unpaid royalties.

Kira S. Masteller and **Olivia Li** represented the appointed Guardian of a minor child who required Guardianship of both her person and her estate to receive the assets inherited from her deceased parents. Necessary petitions were filed and approved by the Court. The Guardian's family welcomed the child into their home, and all are adapting very well.

Jessica W. Rosen, Heidi A. Nurinda, and Thomas M. Morrow represented our client in a business dispute with the co-owner of several restaurant franchises within a global franchise system. On the eve of trial, following extensive trial preparation, the trio secured a favorable settlement that allowed our client to buy out the co-owner, a remedy not available through litigation. Having established the strength of our client's defense to claims of breach of fiduciary obligations, Jessica persuaded opposing counsel and the plaintiff to settle for a fraction of the plaintiff's original demand, saving our client nearly seven figures.

Tal Grinblat and **Katherine L. Wallman** sent a cease-and-desist letter on behalf of a client to an infringer operating in Texas and India who had adopted and used the client's exact marks in a competing business. After receiving Tal and Kate's letter, the infringer acknowledged the improper use, immediately removed all references to the client's marks, and issued a formal apology. This result avoided the need to engage in protracted litigation with the infringer and provided an immediate resolution.

Kevin E. Rex and **Nicholas J. Vitale** worked with a client in a complex sale of a multi-million-dollar business. The organization had multiple locations, some owned by affiliates and others by third parties, which required extensive negotiations to effectuate assignment of locations and the sale of the business.

Nicholas Kanter and **Joshua S. Stein** resolved two separate matters for low five-figure amounts - about one percent of the original demands, which exceeded six figures.

Barry Kurtz, **Katherine L. Wallman**, (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) and **Caitlyn Dillon** are reviewing distribution agreements and related documents for a national supplier to ensure compliance with state and federal franchise laws. In a separate matter, they are preparing franchise documents for a client considering the sale of franchise rights in Canada. In yet another matter, Barry, Caitlyn, and **Cindy J. Cardoza** are reviewing franchise documents for a client seeking to acquire territorial rights to develop multiple frozen yogurt stores.

Nancy Martinez worked with a couple to review and revise a prenuptial agreement for a client preparing for remarriage. Both parties wanted to protect assets intended for their children from prior marriages.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick, **Jessica W. Rosen**, and **Heidy A. Nurinda** successfully opposed a federal court motion that sought to hold our client in contempt of court for violating a prior court order.

Kira S. Masteller and **Nicholas J. Vitale** helped business partners update their Buy Sell Agreement to reflect changes in their business structure as a result of the economy.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick worked with a client to reach a settlement regarding a lingering trademark dispute.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Family Law Specialist) presented to the Ventura County Bar Association's Probate Section: *Family Law 101 for Estate Planners: What Family Lawyers Want Estate Planners to Know*.

Tal Grinblat and **Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** moderated Table Topics at the Annual Meeting for the International Trademark Association in San Diego.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick successfully prevented a third party from infringing on a restaurant industry client's trademark, helping our client avoid the significant cost of litigation.

Kira S. Masteller and **Nicholas J. Vitale** worked with the shareholders of a closely held corporation to transfer the stock of two-thirds of the shareholders to the remaining one-third, releasing the outgoing shareholders from any future liability.

Kevin E. Rex represented our client in purchasing another member's interest in a limited liability company. One of the members passed away unexpectedly, and Kevin worked with the client in negotiating the purchase of the deceased member's interest from the heirs.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Joshua S. Stein** successfully resolved our client's matter for a fraction of the original demand, which exceeded six figures.

Barry Kurtz and **Katherine L. Wallman** are assessing an international license agreement for our client looking to sell franchise rights in Australia.

Tal Grinblat, **Matthew J. Soroky**, **Jessica W. Rosen**, **Thomas M. Morrow**, and **Heidy A. Nurinda** attended the International Franchise Association's Legal Symposium in Washington D.C., where Matt moderated a roundtable discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of liquidated damages in franchise agreements.

Mark J. Phillips co-presented "Expanded Rights of Litigants to Challenge Trusts" to members of the Woodland Hills Tax and Estate Planning Council.

Matthew J. Soroky presented at a webinar for the Orange County Bar Association titled, *Navigating the Legal Complexities in Health Care Industry Franchising*.

Vanessa Soto Nellis attended a women's lawyer conference in New Orleans, which brings together women from across the United States and Canada to exchange ideas and serve as resources for one another.

Publications & Media Mentions

San Antonio Lawyer

Trial of O.J. Simpson, Part 1
Mark J. Phillips, co-author

LA Times Studios

Top 125 Law Firm and Top 25 Real Estate Practice Group in Los Angeles County
Lewitt Hackman, designated

State Bar of California

Certified Specialist in Taxation Law; and in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law
Alex J. Hemmelgarn

Franchise Times

Legal Eagles 2025
Tal Grinblat, selected

Franchise Times

CA Legislation Could Inspire States to Enhance Franchise Protections
Tal Grinblat, quoted

Super Lawyers

2025 Southern California Super Lawyers
Zane S. Averbach
Paul C. Bauducco
Sue M. Bendavid
David B. Bobrosky
Tal Grinblat
Stephen T. Holzer
Jeffrey A. Kobulnick
Barry Kurtz
Kira S. Masteller
Vanessa Soto Nellis
Mark J. Phillips
Andrew L. Shapiro
Lynn Soodik
Keith T. Zimmet

Los Angeles Daily Journal

DEI under the spotlight: The DOJ v. the EEOC
Tal Burnovski Yeyni, author

Money Talk, 1290 AM Radio

Matt Soroky on Franchise Law and Franchise Finance
Matthew J. Soroky, guest