



LEWITT | HACKMAN
SHAPIRO | MARSHALL | HARLAN
A LAW CORPORATION

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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

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AUGUST 2026

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

We are proud to announce that Lewitt Hackman has been recognized by *Los Angeles Times Studios* as one of the **Top 125 Law Firms** in Los Angeles County.

We proudly congratulate seven of our attorneys named to the **Best of L.A. Legal 2026** list by *Los Angeles Magazine*. They include **Sue M. Bendavid** (Employment & Labor), **David B. Bobrosky** (Personal Injury General: Plaintiff), **Kira S. Masteller** (Estate Planning & Probate), **Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Family Law), **Mark J. Phillips** (Estate Planning & Probate), **Andrew L. Shapiro** (Personal Injury), and **Lynn Soodik** (Family Law).

Barry Kurtz (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) was named a **2026 Legal Visionary** by the *Los Angeles Times Business Studios*. This honor recognizes attorneys that provide "...an unwavering commitment to their clients, their craft, and the communities they serve." Barry was also selected to the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, *Inside the Valley*, **Valley 200**. The Valley 200 honors leaders who have made "the largest impact in their business and civic communities this year."

Sue M. Bendavid has been recognized in the Recommended section of the *Doyle's Guide* **Leading Employment Lawyers: Los Angeles 2026**. The list recognizes attorneys "who have been identified by the city's employment lawyers for their expertise and abilities..." in employment law.

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Dillon**, who became a State Bar of California Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law.

Keith T. Zimmet represented our client in its acquisition of a large, out-of-state chemical products business. The transaction was the latest in our client's series of nationwide acquisitions handled by Keith and our firm.

Barry Kurtz, Matthew J. Soroky, and Thomas M. Morrow are working with the buyer of a prominent local restaurant in the termination for cause of its consulting agreement with the seller. They also represent a client in the renewal of its long-standing franchise relationship with its franchisor, a process complicated by multiple prior renewal agreements. In a separate matter, Barry is working with a multi-unit franchisee of a national brand to defer restaurant remodeling in lieu of receiving financial incentives to do so.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Specialist in Family Law) finalized a prenuptial agreement for a client marrying in France, which required an apostille to authenticate the agreement to comply with French legal requirements.

Paul C. Bauducco successfully resolved a pre-litigation dispute between a client and the entity that purchased the client's electrical business. Our client received a cash settlement along with a release from his non-competition agreement, allowing him to return to work as an electrician.

Barry Kurtz and Matthew J. Soroky (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) represent several clients as the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) investigates their franchise programs. They also represent a franchise sales organization in a DFPI investigation of its franchise sales procedures. Barry and Matt are also reviewing an exclusive supply agreement for gasoline and diesel fuel products for a client who will operate a gas station in Central California. In a separate matter, Matt represented a husband-and-wife team in resolving disputes with their former business partners over the continued use of their likeness and intellectual property in franchise advertising and recruiting.

Sue M. Bendavid advised several clients on company-wide layoffs, helping minimize liability exposure when deciding which employees to layoff or retain.

Steven L. Feldman obtained a favorable settlement in a federal court matter involving claims under the ADA/Unruh Civil Rights Act.

Nancy Martinez helped a couple enter into a prenuptial agreement. The agreement provided the couple with clarity and a framework for navigating their financial future together.

Thomas M. Morrow and Matthew J. Soroky successfully obtained dismissal of claims alleging that our client sold the plaintiff an unregistered franchise. The judge agreed that some of the plaintiff's claims under the franchise laws were inapplicable and barred by the statute of limitations.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick, on behalf of an apparel industry client, resolved an ADA website accessibility claim alleging our client's website was not accessible to visually impaired users. The favorable resolution helped the client avoid the cost of further litigation.

Steven L. Feldman successfully negotiated and drafted portions of a complex eight-figure construction contract for a manufacturing plant in Southern California.

Sue M. Bendavid worked with a client in managing the complex employment termination of several high-ranking executives, helping navigate the legal and practical challenges involved.

Barry Kurtz and Katherine L. Wallman (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) are preparing franchise disclosure documents for clients who will sell their franchises in Canada and Mexico. In a separate matter, they are preparing a license agreement for a client with a proprietary children's swimming instruction method.

Matthew J. Soroky and Cindy J. Cardoza reviewed franchise disclosure documents and franchise agreements for clients evaluating franchise opportunities in the home health care and fitness sectors.

Tal Burnovski Yeyni moderated the panel, *ICE and the Employment Arena: An Employer's and Employees' Dilemma*, for the Professionals in Human Resources Association.

Sue M. Bendavid and Tal Burnovski Yeyni hosted a complimentary webinar, *California Employment Defense: Mid-Year Update*. Separately, Sue and Tal conducted a wage and hour training for our client's supervisors.

Publications & Media Mentions

Los Angeles Business Journal
Top 100 Lawyers 2026
Barry Kurtz, selected

Franchise Times
2026 Legal Eagle
Tal Grinblat, selected

Success Unscripted Podcast, with Jonathan Israel
How Smart Families Protect Wealth Across Generations
Kira S. Masteller, guest

Franchise Times
Broker laws, franchisee protections face funding issues at state level
Tal Grinblat, quoted

Super Lawyers
2026 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

Super Lawyers
2026 Southern California Rising Stars
Cindy J. Cardoza
Caitlyn Dillon
Nicholas J. Vitale

Los Angeles Business Journal, Inside the Valley
Leaders to Know: Trusted Advisors 2026
Barry Kurtz, selected