

September, 2008

**Upcoming Firm Seminars:**

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be “*Ins and Outs of Franchising.*” If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

**Website:**

We encourage clients and friends to visit our website at “[www.lewitthackman.com](http://www.lewitthackman.com)” for details on upcoming seminars and other information that may interest you. We appreciate your feedback about our website.

**Some Recent Professional and Community Activities of Our Lawyers:**

- **Tal Grinblat** and **David Gurnick** were certified by the State Bar of California as legal specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law. Tal and David are currently the only certified specialists in Southern California in this field and are among only five such specialists in the entire State of California.
- The Executive Committee of the State Bar of California’s Business Law Section approved **Tal Grinblat’s** appointment as Chair of the Franchise Law Committee. Tal’s term as chair starts September 28, 2008.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** was lead counsel for a local, non-profit client in its issuance of a \$20,000,000 tax exempt bond offering. The offering was made through the California Statewide Communities Development Authority and involved lawyers in several states, state and local governments, and multi-national corporations, who purchased the tax exempt bonds and insured a prior offering by the client. The proceeds of the offering will be used by the client to build educational facilities.
- **Sue Bendavid** convinced the Labor Commissioner’s office to summarily dismiss a wage claim on behalf of a client before the matter was even set for trial. For another client, **Sue Bendavid** and paralegal **Sarah Thrift** assisted in resolving a wage claim for only a small fraction of the claim.



- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted several clients in forming corporate and limited liability company entities. One matter, in which **Michael Hackman** assisted, included preparing a unique operating agreement with attention to complex tax issues.
- **Nicholas Kanter** and **David Gurnick** defeated an opponent's motion for summary judgment against a client. In another matter involving the breakup of a professional firm, Nick and David defeated an opponent's emergency motion asking a court to force a client to sign documents and turn over funds.
- **Keith T. Zimmet**, representing a shopping center, completed the negotiation of a long term lease with a multi-national tenant who has locations in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Puerto Rico. The negotiations resolved issues unique to the particular tenant without impacting other tenants of the shopping center.
- **Kevin E. Rex** finalized a settlement in which a client's interest in a corporation was sold to the majority shareholders. In another matter, Kevin, with assistance of **Sue Bendavid**, assisted a chief executive officer in negotiating terms of resignation and separation from the company.
- **David Gurnick** defended the deposition of a prominent toy manufacturer in a case brought by a former officer of a company that the client had previously acquired. In another deposition, David questioned the former officer.
- **Kevin E. Rex** worked with a client and an investment banker to finalize a letter of intent for a client to sell all its assets to a buyer.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** participated in his first meeting as incoming President of the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley and in his first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley (Steve is on the Economic Alliance Board by virtue of being the Chair of the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley)."
- **Sue Bendavid's** "Ask the Lawyer" column entitled "*Court Rules For Forms on Breaks*" was published in the Los Angeles Daily News.
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** volunteered as family law mediators for the Los Angeles Superior Court.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** attended the Annual Seminar of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles.
- Paralegals **Sarah Thrift** and **Amy Bernardino**, Co-Chairs of the San Fernando Valley section of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association, recently organized and hosted LAPA's continuing legal education program at The Stand in Woodland Hills. More than 60 paralegals attended to hear an expert speak on ethical issues, including the unauthorized practice of law and conflicts of interest.