

January, 2009

The Attorneys and Staff of Lewitt Hackman wish our clients  
Happy New Year and a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2009.

**Upcoming Firm Seminars:**

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next seminar is Wednesday, **January 14, 2009** at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., in the conference facility at our office. The topic will be “**New Employment Laws for 2009.**” If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

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

- Lewitt Hackman often assists clients in efforts to police and protect brand and business names. **Tal Grinblat** assisted a client in the frozen yogurt business to demand that another company stop using an infringing trademark. The infringer had applied to register a similar name for its yogurt. The infringer agreed to change its name and to abandon their application.
- **Sue Bendavid** conducted supervisor and employee sexual harassment training for a client. Companies with more than 50 employees are required to have supervisors attend sexual harassment training at least once every two years. In the face of these tough economic times, Sue also assisted several clients who sought to implement layoffs so they could stay in business.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in concluding several months of negotiations with a previously bankrupt national tenant to enter into a lease at the client’s shopping center. The transaction involved unique issues relating to the prior bankruptcy, the location of the shopping center, and the lease’s impact on other tenants in the shopping center.
- **John B. Marshall, Michael Hackman** and paralegal **Amy Bernardino** completed an Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 reverse property exchange for a client. This let the client buy replacement properties before selling properties that would be used in the exchange. A reverse exchange can expand a party’s ability to benefit from market changes and improve the client’s investment position while also limiting capital gains taxes.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in structuring a partial buy-out of the client from a privately held company.



- **Michael Hackman** assisted a limited liability company in a complex restructure, which included structuring the ultimate buyout of member-managers and the purchase of the members' intangible assets.
- **Tal Grinblat** assisted a software company in making a cease and desist demand to CNET networks. A third party posted infringing software on CNET's website. The software name was almost identical to a registered trademark owned by the firm's client. CNET agreed to remove the infringing software from its website.
- A husband asked to be custodian of several bank accounts. **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** persuaded the Court that a custodian was not needed after age 18 under California's Uniform Transfer to Minors Act. The Court awarded the custodial accounts to a son who had reached age 18, excepting only an account that provided for a custodian until the son turned 21.
- **David Gurnick** prepared an agreement to have a celebrity record broadcast radio and television advertising spots for a client.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association. Founded in 1949, VICA is widely considered one of the most influential business advocacy organizations in Southern California.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** served as a volunteer mediator in the Van Nuys Family Law Court. Vanessa was able to help three couples settle their child support and custody matters, which helped decrease the court's case load. Vanessa also volunteered and made wellness gifts and greeting cards for women entering the Norris Cancer Center for treatment, and helped recruit women at Step Up Women's Network's 2008 Holiday Event. The event was attended by over 500 professional women.
- **Sue Bendavid** and **David Gurnick** helped distribute blankets for homeless people in the Valley, at the Los Angeles Family Housing Center in North Hollywood. This was part of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association's annual "Blanket the Homeless" program.
- **David Gurnick** arranged and participated in a tour of the Van Nuys Courthouse for a group of high school and college students who are members of Law Explorer Post 1926. David is past co-advisor to the group, which is sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.