

December, 2009

Upcoming Firm Seminars:

Our Firm conducts complimentary seminars, in the conference facility at our office, for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. The next in the series are the following:

“Year-End Tax and Estate Planning”: Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

“New Employment Laws for 2010”: Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

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:

- **Barry T. Harlan**, a State Bar Certified Family Law Specialist, and **David Gurnick**, a State Bar Certified Franchise and Distribution Law Specialist, were each included in the list of *Southern California’s Best Lawyers (2010 edition)* published in the Los Angeles Times.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** and **Nicholas Kanter** obtained a substantial judgment for a contractor concerning a condominium project. In another matter, Paul and Nick obtained an attachment for a landlord against a former tenant. At the hearing, Paul and Nick persuaded the court to award an attachment for more money than was originally requested.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** represented one of the nation’s most well recognized radio broadcasters in disputes with various media organizations. **Robert A. Hull** assisted in the matter which involved broadcast, print, and online media.
- **Michael Hackman** and **David Gurnick** represented a neurosurgeon in defense of a claim for breach of a relocation agreement. A hospital and surgical clinic sought several hundred thousand dollars from the firm’s client. After Michael and David identified substantial counterclaims, the matter settled with the doctor paying nothing and receiving a full release.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and certified tax specialist **Michael Hackman** assisted a client in having a trust buy an interest in the family business. Michael and Kevin have helped high net worth individuals and families benefit from the economic downturn by transferring assets to the next generation at valuations more favorable than prevailed before the downturn.
- The Los Angeles City Council acted to pay a large Jury Verdict, plus costs and interest, from a case tried to a jury by **Andrew L. Shapiro** and **David B. Bobrosky** of the firm’s Personal Injury Dept. The firm’s clients had been innocently driving on a freeway and suffered a car rollover due to the negligence of a driver of a City owned and operated automobile. Before the trial, the City denied responsibility for the accident.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in negotiating management agreements with some of the nation’s premiere musical artists and comedians.



- After more than three years of contentious litigation and on the eve of trial, **Paul C. Bauducco, Sue M. Bendavid** and **Nicole Kamm**, along with paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, assisted a hospital negotiate a favorable settlement that represented a tiny fraction of the plaintiff's estimated damages and original demand.
- **Michael Hackman, Kevin E. Rex** and paralegal **Amy Bernardino** assisted a client in transferring properties from limited partnerships to limited liability companies to limit the liability of general partners without triggering property tax reassessments.
- **Michelle S. Robins** negotiated the settlement of a contentious divorce involving complex spousal, child support and custody issues.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** represented a client in negotiating a long term ground lease in California's central valley.
- **Leon Lewitt** and **David Gurnick** assisted in resolving a franchisor-franchisee dispute involving a retail clothing store at a prominent shopping mall. The dispute involved trade debt and claims of more than \$1 million and California and New York franchise law issues. Leon and David negotiated an amicable resolution, in which the franchisor obtained ownership of the store and the franchisee obtained relief from the debt and all parties avoided litigation.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **Robert A. Hull** helped a client renegotiate a lease with its landlord. The absence of any personal guarantee provided the client an opportunity to renegotiate.
- **Vanessa Nellis** assisted a client in obtaining modification of spousal and child support due to a job change. Vanessa helped resolve the matter outside of court, which saved the client significant attorneys fees.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Robert A. Hull** obtained a substantial six figure judgment in favor of an employer client who was the victim of embezzlement by a former employee. The employee is now serving time in prison because of the embezzlement.
- **David Gurnick** and **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a personal care products maker in defeating a writ of attachment. The client hired the firm near the deadline to oppose plaintiff's petition. Kevin and David prepared an emergency (ex parte) request regarding the opposition that would be filed, prepared the opposition and David participated in a lengthy oral argument at court. The court ruled in favor of the firm's client, denying the writ of attachment.
- **Vanessa Nellis** helped organize the Step Up Women's Network's annual fundraiser, "Stepping Up In the City". The event brought 600 professional women together to support Step Up, a national non-profit organization focused on women's issues.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** was Chair of the 82nd Annual Gala of the Americanism Educational League, a nonprofit educational organization that provides materials on American history to schools across the country. Retired California Supreme Court Justice Armand Arabian was the principal honoree of the event.
- **Michelle S. Robins** and **Vanessa Nellis** each volunteered as a family law mediator at the Los Angeles Superior Court, assisting the court and parties in mediating and attempting to settle family law cases. This spared some parties from going further with litigation, and eases the court's backlog to help the court handle other cases.
- Paralegal **Amy Bernardino** was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. Amy also serves as co-Chair for the San Fernando Valley section, where she focuses on providing continuing education opportunities for paralegals.
- **Vanessa Nellis** and **David Gurnick** attended a California Society of CPAs and San Fernando Valley Bar Association mixer.