

August, 2010

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 is “**Franchising In the Current Economy: Issues and Trends Confronting Franchisors and Franchisees,**” to be held on **Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

If you are interested in attending any future seminar, please R.S.V.P. to Michele Avnes, at (818) 907-3281.

Some Recent Professional and Community Activities of Our Lawyers:

- In a highly contested custody dispute, **Michelle S. Robins** won a motion allowing the firm’s client to bring his young daughter to visit family in another country.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** settled a dispute between a contractor client and the University of California, obtaining \$230,000 for the client and avoiding costs of litigation.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** resolved a long, emotionally charged dispute between a well known production company, represented by the firm, and a high profile television producer.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in negotiating a revenue sharing relationship, giving the client an option to buy a business if certain conditions are met. **Robert A. Hull** assisted the client in obtaining licenses in several states so the client could enter into the relationship.
- In the United States Trademark Trial and Appeals Board, **Tal Grinblat, Nicholas Kanter** and Paralegal **Sarah Thrift** stopped the effort of a large, national department store chain to litigate a client’s trademark application. Tal, Nick and Sarah persuaded the Board to suspend action to avoid the risk of conflict with a Federal Court in Los Angeles where a trademark action is pending between the same parties.
- **Keith T. Zimmet** assisted a client in the acquisition of real property in California’s central valley. The commercial transaction involved the recordation of a new Parcel Map, the rezoning of the property, obtaining the consent of the local City government, and amending existing CC&Rs to permit our client to build on the site.
- Within weeks of an employee bringing a large claim of wage and hour violations, **Sue M. Bendavid** assisted the firm’s client in resolving the matter for a *fraction* of the claim. Sue persuaded the employee to enter into a full release, also including a release of any allegations of wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination.



- **Steve Mihalovits, Kevin E. Rex** and **David Gurnick** assisted a wine importer in an action against former company employees for selling the company's products at excessive discounts, and having an intimate affair with each other in violation of the company's sex harassment policy. The claim was settled with the ex-employees agreeing to pay the company a substantial amount.
- **Michael Hackman** and **David Gurnick** assisted a swap meet owner in an appeal conference at the State Board of Equalization. Mike and David provided legal analysis to challenge the Board's attempt to impose sales tax on normally non-taxable sales of bottled water.
- **Kevin E. Rex** advised a Board of Directors on benefits of amending a shareholder agreement to provide more flexibility to shareholders in an exit strategy.
- **David Gurnick** assisted a client in negotiating a long term telecommunications services contract from one of the nation's major telecommunications providers.
- **Nicholas Kanter** and **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in settling an Americans With Disabilities Act lawsuit without litigation.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** provided internal training for a business management firm on "Mistakes Employers Make and How To Avoid Them." The client can use the information at their own firm, and to help their business clients as well.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** served as a volunteer mediator in the Van Nuys family law court. This helped parties resolve disputes, and helped reduce the court's workload.
- **David Gurnick** served as arbitrator of a dispute between two professionals over equitable distribution of professional fees. Both professionals had provided services to the same client.
- **Paul C. Bauducco** and **Nicholas Kanter** obtained summary judgment for the firm's client in a lease dispute where the tenant abandoned the leased premises before the lease term expired. The court awarded the client all of the rent due up until the expiration of the lease.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** chaperoned high school students from a Law & Government Explorer Post to a performance of "South Pacific" at the Los Angeles Music Center. The firm assists the Explorer Post, which is a diverse group of high school students.
- Paralegals **Amy Bernardino** and **Sarah Thrift** are Co-Chairs of the San Fernando Valley section of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. Amy, Sarah, and Paralegal **Addie De La Torre** recently organized a continuing education program for the Association on efficient paralegal utilization.
- The Valley Community Legal Foundation held its annual fund raising gala, with proceeds going to grants and scholarships. **Stephen T. Holzer** is President of the Foundation. Lewitt Hackman was lead sponsor of the event, with **Sue M. Bendavid, Tal Grinblat, David Gurnick, Michael Hackman, Barry T. Harlan, Stephen T. Holzer, Robert A. Hull, John B. Marshall, Kevin E. Rex,** and **Michelle S. Robins** attending. Entertainers Marty Ingels and Shirley Jones were masters of ceremony and awards were presented to the Los Angeles District Attorney and Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court.