

Lewitt Hackman invites clients and friends to a complimentary seminar:

Year End Estate, Gift & Property Tax Planning

approved for 1.5 hours of MCLE credit and 1.5 hours CPE credit***

- **2017 Estate, Gift and Income Tax Changes:**
Learn the set and proposed changes to the law, and how these changes will affect you.
- **Fractional or Minority Interest Discounts:**
If they're disappearing, other options for savings and discounts are still in play.
- **Making Gifts Now:**
What should you know about timing, outright gifts, gifts in trust, gifts in a partnership or LLC and generation-skipping?
- **Basic Estate Plan Check-Up:**
Is everything up to date? Seven critical areas need to be checked and double-checked.



Michael Hackman[^]
Chair, Tax, Trusts & Estate
Planning Practice Groups



Kira S. Masteller
Shareholder, Trusts & Estate
Planning Practice Group

Please RSVP to Chris Podbielski:
818.907.3271 or cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com

- **Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016**
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
- at Lewitt Hackman
- Light Breakfast Served
- Parking Validated
- No Charge to Attend

*Lewitt Hackman is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider.

**CPE Credit: This is a Group-Live seminar requiring no prerequisites or advance preparation. You will receive basic information about recent changes to federal and state tax, trusts and estate planning laws. Lewitt Hackman is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy on the National Registry of DPE Sponsors. State Boards of accountancy have final authority on acceptance of courses for credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors: www.learningmarket.org. For more information regarding program cancellation policies or any other concerns, please contact Michele Avnes of our office at (818) 907-3281.

[^]Michael Hackman is a Certified Specialist in Tax Law, designated by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kira S. Masteller was installed as President of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, and **Hannah Sweiss** joined the Board of Trustees. In the same ceremony, **Stephen T. Holzer** was sworn in to the Board of Directors for the Valley Community Legal Foundation.

Barry T. Harlan, Certified Specialist and Chair of our Family Law Practice Group, was named a **Most Trusted Advisor** by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal* in August. **Michael Hackman**, **Andrew L. Shapiro**, **John B. Marshall**, **Amy I. Huberman** and **Kyla A. Johanson** were also chosen as finalists.

Congratulations **Top Women Lawyers in Southern California 2016** designated by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, including our own: **Sue M. Bendavid** (Employment); **Kira S. Masteller** (Estate & Probate); **Lynn Soodik** (Family Law); **Up-and-Coming 50 Women**: **Nicole Kamm** (Employment) and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Family Law).

Barry Kurtz (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) represents a fast-casual food franchisor client in a major expansion to develop 300 units in 10 states over the next seven years – which involve complex negotiations, documentation and licensing rights. In other matters, Barry is also working with the owner of 140 franchised units, to obtain concurrent 15 year renewals of its current franchise agreements.

Sue M. Bendavid, **Nicole Kamm** and **Hannah Sweiss** worked with a multi-unit franchisee to settle wage and hour claims by the client's employee that could have resulted in an expensive, long-term litigation. After pointing out the weaknesses in the plaintiff's arguments, they were able to achieve a full release of all claims in exchange for an agreement by Plaintiff to walk away for less than 15 percent of his initial claim.

Kira S. Masteller prepared an estate plan for a couple whose adult daughter has a severe disability. The daughter's share of the couple's estate will be distributed to a Supplemental Needs Trust with an appointed Trustee to manage and administer the assets during the daughter's lifetime, without disqualifying her from receiving necessary Medi-Cal benefits.

Nicholas Kanter and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** convinced a court to deny a plaintiff's motion to quash a subpoena seeking evidence concerning plaintiff's purported educational background. In the same matter, the plaintiff also refused to answer questions in deposition. The court ordered the plaintiff to do so, providing our client with a major victory at this stage in a discrimination and wrongful termination litigation.

Andrew L. Shapiro, **Thomas Cecil** and **David B. Bobrosky** successfully represented a motocyclist in a case against the State of California. While changing lanes on an off-ramp from SR 118 in Porter Ranch, our client suffered serious injuries when his wheels caught on a seam of uneven pavement between lanes. The State settled the matter for a substantial six figure number.

Keith T. Zimmet represented our client in a major tax-free financing transaction involving issuance of State of California Revenue Notes, negotiation and coordination with the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, California Treasurer's Office, and the California Attorney General's Office. In addition, Keith worked with institutional lenders and investment bankers to complete the financing.

John B. Marshall represented a client in obtaining a six million dollar settlement of complex multi-party lawsuit with respect to a real property limited partnership.

Barry T. Harlan and **Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Certified Specialists in Family Law) obtained a substantial attorney fee order, spousal support and child support, for a client whose spouse refused to pay any support or attorney fees, despite having assets in excess of \$35 Million.

Nicole Kamm and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** convinced the Employment Development Department (EDD) to reduce an assessment of unpaid taxes and penalties to a fraction of the initial amount assessed. The resolution was the result of more than a year of negotiations with the EDD regarding the classification of employees.

Barry T. Harlan and **Veronica R. Woods** represented a client in a lengthy, two-day settlement conference before a private judge, in which our client received a seven figure equalization as well as a high spousal support award.

Kevin E. Rex worked with the shareholders of our client in negotiating and selling their privately held business. As part of the sale, Kevin negotiated employment agreements for the shareholders as well as a minority interest in the buyer so that the shareholders could benefit from future business growth.

Katherine M. Heersema joined our Family Law Practice Group as an Associate. Katie earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law where she also achieved High Honors in Gifts, Wills and Trusts; Taxation; and Remedies.

Paul C. Bauducco, **Amy I. Huberman** and **David Gurnick** obtained temporary protective orders against defendants who owe our client more than two million dollars for breach of a Promissory Note and Personal Guaranty.

Tal Grinblat, while Co-Chair of the Franchise Law Committee of the State Bar of California (and Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) co-sponsored two bills affecting franchising in California, which recently passed the legislature. Assembly Bill 1782 and Assembly Bill 2637 are currently awaiting approval by Governor Jerry Brown.

Lynn Soodik (Certified Family Law Specialist) appeared on *Extra TV* to provide insights into the Brad Pitt/Angelina Jolie divorce, particularly in regards to child custody matters, prenuptial agreements and division of property. Having represented several celebrity clients, Lynn is often called on by national media outlets to comment on high-profile divorces.