



December, 2011

Firm Seminars:

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Sue M. Bendavid**, Chair of our Employment Law Practice Group will present "***New Employment Laws for 2012***" on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewithackman.com, 818.907.3271.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Barry T. Harlan** and **David Gurnick** were named in the "Southern California Best Lawyers 2012 Edition," which recently appeared in *the Los Angeles Times*. Barry is a Certified Specialist in Family Law, and David is a Certified Specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law, both as designated by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California.
- **Kevin E. Rex** represented a majority shareholder in connection with the stock sale of our client's \$30 million software company. In another matter, Kevin resolved a dispute for a landlord with a tenant who owed our client significant sums. The settlement ultimately resulted in a lump payment to our client, as well as the tenant vacating our client's property.
- **Nicholas Kanter** and **David Gurnick** persuaded the Superior Court to vacate a large money judgment originally entered in Virginia against a corporation and five current and former owners, jointly and severally. The holder of the judgment wanted to enforce it in California. But Nicholas and David proved the Virginia court lacked jurisdiction over our clients, and a California judge agreed it should be declared null and void.
- **Tal Grinblat** facilitated a Los Angeles-based sushi franchisor in expanding to Australia. As part of the transaction, Tal negotiated for the client to place franchises in existing third party outlets in Sydney.
- **Barry T. Harlan, Vanessa Soto Nellis, Kevin E. Rex, and Michael Hackman** resolved a division of property matter in a highly complex divorce matter involving a proposed sale of a multi-million dollar business, after a lengthy settlement conference. Barry and Vanessa handled family law aspects while Kevin assisted in business components of the settlement. Michael, a Certified Specialist in Tax Law, assisted in structuring the settlement to resolve complex tax issues in the potential sale and division of property.





- **Sue M. Bendavid** assisted a client in obtaining a waiver of a constructive termination and harassment claim before the employee ever filed suit. The employee claimed she was forced to quit as a result of allegedly harassing conduct by her co-worker. The client saved a substantial amount of money and many months in potential litigation.
- **Stephan Mihalovits** and **David Gurnick** obtained a prejudgment writ of attachment for more than \$180,000 in a claim for money due for services. This prejudgment action required the court to agree that the plaintiff will probably win the case, and permits seizure of the defendant's assets to provide security for an anticipated money judgment.
- **Tal Grinblat** filed international trademark applications for several clients by employing the Madrid Protocol, which allows U.S. companies to extend their existing U.S. registrations or applications to member countries of the Protocol. Currently, 83 countries around the world are Madrid Protocol signatories. The Madrid Protocol process permits clients to save substantial sums, because it allows a coordinated filing procedure in multiple countries without hiring local counsel.
- **Michelle S. Robins**, a Shareholder in our Family Law Practice Group, helped resolve 13 family law cases as a mediator for the Los Angeles Superior Court. Michelle has been honored by courts in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles County for volunteer family law mediation services.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro**, **Thomas Cecil** and **David B. Bobrosky** of our Personal Injury Practice Group continue to fight through the complexities of the DePuy ASR Hip System cases. With so many lawsuits brought against DePuy, Johnson & Johnson and others for defective metal-on-metal artificial hips, the Judicial Council granted a petition to coordinate all the lawsuits with a San Francisco Superior Court Judge to streamline the judicial process, which allows our attorneys to move forward with the evidence gathering phase of the litigation.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **David Gurnick** advised a client on structuring a licensing transaction to reduce the burden and cost of compliance with federal and California franchise laws.
- **Michelle S. Robins** was appointed Program Chair of the Family Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.
- **Stephen T. Holzer** helped form the United Valley Business Political Action Committee, to promote business interests in the San Fernando Valley. Stephen was also reelected President of the Greater Mulwood Homeowners Association.
- **Maurice Lewitt** spoke to a fifth grade class at Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies on the Holocaust and his family's experiences living in Europe during that time. The presentation followed the class's viewing of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, as part of a history course on World War II.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** arranged for a court house visit with the Millikan Middle School Civics Academy. The students met judges, saw the lock-up, and witnessed courtroom proceedings first hand, which gave them a clearer picture of how professionals in legal and law enforcement really work.