

## BUSINESS GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
- Commercial Finance
- Corporate
- Employment
- Environmental
- Franchise & Distribution
- Health Care
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Tax Planning

## CONSUMER GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trusts & Estate Planning

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## Complimentary Seminar: Environmental Legislation

**Stephen T. Holzer**, Chair of our Environmental Practice Group, will present *Latest Environmental Legislation: How Prop 65 Affects Business & Property Owners*, in June. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. Further details will be forthcoming.

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MAY 2013

*Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments*

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**Keith T. Zimmet** and his wife, **Robyn**, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Viewpoint School – an honor given only a few times in the School's 50 year history. Keith and Robyn have been active volunteers at the School for 15 years, with Keith previously serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Nearly 500 people attended the benefit dinner at which the Zimmets also received a commendation from the City of Calabasas, presented by the Mayor.

**David Gurnick**, a State Bar of California Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law, was co-counsel in a six day franchise law arbitration in San Francisco. The matter involved examinations and testimony of numerous fact witnesses and franchise law experts. Though rulings are not expected for several months, the arbitrator, an experienced retired judge, praised David and other co-counsel on the quality of their case presentations.

**Elizabeth A. Erickson** obtained a permanent renewal of a one-year domestic violence restraining order for a client whose ex-husband persisted in sending harassing text messages and emails, even after their divorce.

**Paul C. Bauducco**, with assistance from **Stephan Mihalovits**, brought a successful motion to dismiss in Federal Court, eliminating all counterclaims, including counts for fraud, abuse of process and numerous other torts, brought against a Firm client.

**Kevin E. Rex** and **David Gurnick** represented a client in the multi-million dollar sale of an entertainment industry business. **Sue M. Bendavid** worked out the related employment matters, and **Keith T. Zimmet** prepared the security documents for the transaction. **Michael Hackman**, a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Tax Law, structured the sale as a 338(h)(10) stock transaction.

**Sue M. Bendavid** caused a former employee of a client to cease and desist writing threatening emails and texts after he was terminated.

**Tal Grinblat** resolved a trademark infringement claim against a client in the clothing business. After conducting research on the claimant, their trademark and other users of the claimed mark, Tal persuaded the claimant to back down from their demands and negotiated a lengthy transition period to allow the client to dispose of inventory over a protracted period.



**David Gurnick** worked with a client to prepare a licensing agreement and website terms and conditions for a new software product. David prepared privacy policies for the developer, and for companies providing travel services.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Nicholas Kanter** assisted several clients in the software and technology fields seek protection for their trademarks in Brazil, China, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Korea and others.

**Kira S. Masteller** is working with a client who is the Trustee of her mother's trust, in filing a petition with the Court to have her mother's house transferred into her mother's Trust without a Probate proceeding. The mother unintentionally forgot to transfer the house back into her Trust after a refinance. The petition will save thousands of dollars, and the house will be transferred in 45 days instead of the year it would take to Probate the property.

**Nicole Kamm** has been actively educating employers on how to avoid employee claims by giving a series of presentations for area business owners. Recently Nicole spoke at the Greater Los Angeles chapter of SCORE, regarding policies every employer should implement to protect their business, and will co-present an update on California's mandatory leaves of absence with **Sue M. Bendavid** for the Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA) Mid-Year Legal Update in June.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** worked with opposing counsel to obtain a stipulated judgment for a client who wished to resolve his dissolution of marriage in an amicable manner.

**Nicholas Kanter** obtained dismissals of two separate lawsuits filed against our clients. In one of the lawsuits, the court sustained Nick's demurrer without leave to amend, resulting in the plaintiff's claims being dismissed with prejudice. In the other, the plaintiff voluntarily dismissed its claims after Nick filed a demurrer demonstrating the lawsuit was meritless.

**Kira S. Masteller** drafted a privacy trust for a family that did not wish to have their names and property ownership information in the public record. In another matter, Kira and **Robert A. Hull** assisted a client who wished to resign as trustee of a trust that had no designated successor trustee. They filed papers with the court requesting the appointment of a private professional fiduciary as successor trustee.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** and **Nicole Kamm** were each recognized as nominees for awards given by local publications. Vanessa was nominated as a *2013 Top Women in Business* by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, and Nicole is a nominee for the *2013 Women Making a Difference Award*, by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

**Sue M. Bendavid**, speaking for the East Ventura Country Employer Advisory Council, presented best practices for employers dealing with workplace threats and violence. The seminar addressed specific legal options and obligations, including implementing and enforcing policies, assessing threats, and obtaining restraining orders.

**Stephan Mihalovits** was accepted to the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the West Valley, which educates and empowers over 800 children nearly every day on a main campus in Canoga Park and nine satellite locations throughout the west Valley. Stephan will also work on the resource development committee on issues related to fundraising for the Club.

**Stephen T. Holzer** was sworn in as a returning member of the Board of Directors for the United Chambers of Commerce. **Thomas Cecil**, **David B. Bobrosky**, **Elizabeth A. Erickson** and Paralegal **Addie de la Torre** attended the annual installation event.

**David Gurnick** presided at a public debate between candidates for Los Angeles City Attorney, hosted by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and the University of West Los Angeles Law School.

## PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

### ***Good Morning America***

*"Real Housewives" Star's Startling Divorce*

Lynn Soodik Interviewed

### ***The San Fernando Valley Business Journal***

*Building Up for a Boom in Construction Defects*

Paul C. Bauducco quoted

### ***The San Fernando Valley Business Journal***

*Seeking Alternatives to Defunct ADR Department*

David Gurnick quoted

### ***Los Angeles Lawyer***

*The Nation's First: LRIS Helps Thousands of Callers with Legal Problems Find Attorneys*

Stephen T. Holzer commended

### ***Los Angeles Daily Journal***

*Combat Delay Tactics in Unlawful Detainer Lawsuits*

by Nicholas Kanter

### ***Los Angeles Magazine***

*2013 Southern California Super Lawyers*

Sue M. Bendavid, David B. Bobrosky, Tal Grinblat, David Gurnick, Michael Hackman, Barry T. Harlan, Stephen T. Holzer, Michelle S. Robins, Andrew L. Shapiro and Lynn Soodik named

### ***Super Lawyers Magazine***

*Southern California Top 100*

Barry T. Harlan designated one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers of Southern California