

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:

Employer Defense: California Employment Law Update 2014 will be presented Wednesday, January 29th, by **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Nicole Kamm**. A light breakfast will be served, and attendees may earn MCLE or CPE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, 818.907.3271.

JANUARY 2014

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Barry T. Harlan and **David Gurnick** have been named **Los Angeles' Best Lawyers for 2014**. The list appeared in special supplements to the *Los Angeles Daily News* and the *Orange County Register*. Barry is a Certified Specialist in Family Law, and David is a Certified Specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law – as designated by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization.

Stephen T. Holzer and **Sue M. Bendavid** were selected to the **2013 Top Attorneys in Business** list, which appeared in the *Super Lawyers' Business Edition*. Steve and Sue were recognized for their work in environmental law and employment law, respectively.

Paul C. Bauducco successfully arbitrated a breach of contract claim relating to a travel business, obtaining an award of \$115,000 plus costs for the Firm's client.

Michael Hackman, a Certified Specialist in Tax Law, and **Kira S. Masteller**, are working with a client to gift a significant amount of stock in a closely held business to a Charitable Remainder Trust which will pay the Donors an annuity for a period of years, while providing a significant gift to various charities at the end of the term of the trust. The Donors remove appreciating assets from their estate for Federal Estate Tax purposes, while also receiving a significant income tax deduction during their lifetime.

Keith T. Zimmet represented a client in an IRS Section 1031 Exchange of commercial property. The resulting purchase involved a prominent commercial property on Ventura Boulevard. In an unrelated matter, Keith represented a client in distributing numerous real property assets held by an existing limited liability company to the various members of the LLC and the transfer of some of those members' interests in such real property.

John B. Marshall represented a client in a three-day trial challenging a government order revoking a conditional use permit and imposing a multi-million dollar fine, both of which would have severely damaged our client's business. The case involved several complex constitutional law and statutory issues. The Court issued its ruling in favor of our client, totally reversing both the revocation and the fines.

Andrew L. Shapiro working with **David B. Bobrosky** of our Personal Injury Practice Group, obtained a high six figure settlement for an older disabled gentleman who was struck by a car while crossing the street on his utility scooter. Defendant alleged our client drove in front of his car outside the crosswalk and was not seriously injured due to numerous age-related, pre-existing health problems. After defendant's attorney deposed our experts, his insurance company agreed to a substantial settlement just weeks before trial.



Michael Hackman aided a corporate shareholder and officer of a company in reviewing documents in a restructuring of stock holdings when the company reorganized its business structure. Mike identified ways to improve the documents for the benefit of our client.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Nicole Kamm** resolved a contentious pregnancy discrimination lawsuit favorably for a client. After lengthy written discovery, Sue and Nicole convinced the other side to drop the matter for a significantly reduced amount of the initial demand.

David Gurnick worked with out-of-state counsel for a franchisor in preparing a court complaint and arbitration demand, both filed in the franchisor's home state, to obtain a declaration that a local franchisee's rights expired and need not be renewed. David's strategy enabled the franchisor to bring its litigation in its home state.

Paul C. Bauducco and **John B. Marshall** favorably settled multiple lawsuits against a collection agency client, saving the client tens of thousands of dollars in litigation costs.

Michelle S. Robins resolved a complicated dissolution matter involving multiple family businesses and substantial real estate holdings.

David Gurnick obtained a California franchise registration for a gluten, soy, and corn-free bakery and café. In another matter, David assisted in negotiating terms of transition and eventual separation for a medical practice's former managing partner.

Vanessa Soto Nellis worked with opposing counsel to convince a judge to vacate an order which conflicted with the parties' out of court settlement agreement. The complicated matter required multiple court appearances, but Vanessa succeeded in having the order vacated, and the parties' Judgment of Dissolution was promptly entered to provide resolution before the end of the year.

Tal Grinblat resolved a trademark dispute with a company who opposed our client's mark in the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. This resolution allowed the client's mark to proceed to registration without further delay.

Kira S. Masteller established a Designated Beneficiary Trust for clients who want their significant retirement assets upon their deaths to be managed by a Trustee for their children's lives, and to continue to serve as retirement assets for the children. The DBT prevents the children from "cashing in" the assets early thus generating negative income tax consequences, and still ensures the children will have meaningful, supplemental income for life.

John B. Marshall served as chairman of two attorney fee arbitration panels, one for the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the other for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Los Angeles Lawyer

Cooperatives: California Law Allows for Flexible Application of the Operative Principles

by David Gurnick

Valley Lawyer

Piece Rate Pay: Employers Should Proceed With Caution

by Nicole Kamm

Gilliot Communications

A Lawyer's Guide to Crisis PR: Protecting Your Clients In & From the Media

Contributor: John B. Marshall

American Bar Association

Franchising: Cases, Materials and Problems

Contributor: David Gurnick

Valley Lawyer

When Is It Lawful to Use Other People's Intellectual Property?

by Tal Grinblat & David Gurnick

Super Lawyers Magazine

2013 Top Women Attorneys in Southern California:

Sue M. Bendavid
Michelle S. Robins
Lynn Soodik

Valley Lawyer

Understanding Conflicts of Interest in Estate Planning

by Kira S. Masteller

CNN Entertainment

Jason Patric: Custody Fight is for My Son

Lynn Soodik Interviewed

LA Talk Radio

Broad Topics with Laura Nickerson: Estate Planning

Robert A. Hull Interviewed