



February, 2012

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 Wednesday, February 29, 2012. This is an encore presentation for those who were unable to attend on January 10th. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, 818.907.3271.

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:

- **Kevin E. Rex** worked closely with a divorcing client to sell his family-owned insurance business. **Barry T. Harlan**, a Certified Family Law Specialist, and **Vanessa Nellis** handled our client's divorce. Kevin and **Michael Hackman**, a Certified Specialist in Tax Law, structured the terms of the sale, which has been valued in excess of \$20 million.
- **Nicholas Kanter** won a motion for summary judgment in a lawsuit arising from a trustee's sale. The court awarded the Firm's client possession of real estate purchased at the sale. In another matter arising from a trustee's sale, Nick convinced a bankruptcy court to grant the Firm's client relief from a bankruptcy stay, so that the client could pursue possession of property.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** and **Stephan Mihalovits** persuaded a national recreation facility to reimburse a Firm client for the lion's share of a substantial, nonrefundable deposit, following a dispute. The facility executives capitulated on the refund in mediation proceedings during which Sue and Stephan argued the defendant breached the agreement with our client.
- **Andrew L. Shapiro** of the Personal Injury Department recovered favorable compensation for a US Postal Worker who suffered a dog attack. The defense doctor minimized the injuries, and the home owner's insurance company would not take the attack seriously. Andy took our client to a top notch hand surgeon and an excellent neurologist, who identified a permanent nerve injury. The medical findings resulted in a favorable resolution weeks before trial. Our Firm continues to handle most types of serious injury cases in an attempt to assure that our clients are compensated fairly.



- **Barry T. Harlan** and **Vanessa Nellis** successfully persuaded a court to deny a spouse's request for a pre-distribution of community funds for the parties' adult daughters, in which our client was not agreeable to the proposed use of funds. In another matter, Barry and Vanessa settled a divorce that had been ongoing for several years. The parties were able to resolve their differences at a voluntary settlement conference.
- **Kira S. Masteller** is working with a family to lower their taxable estate by gifting a portion of a family owned LLC that owns real estate, and selling a portion of the LLC to an Irrevocable Trust. Removing the principal assets from the parents' taxable estate this way will benefit the children, providing them income throughout their lives while reducing the estate tax bill upon their parents' death. The parents will receive annual interest income on the Promissory Note from the Trust for the purchase of the LLC interest, and will manage the LLC until the children are old enough to take over.
- **David Gurnick** prepared an agreement for a client to establish a licensed food service location on the campus of a major university. In another matter, David prepared terms and conditions for a client to establish a paid referral network over the internet.
- **Tal Grinblat** assisted a client in the software security business register several of its core marks in the EU, Australia and Singapore. Tal used the Madrid Protocol, a trademark application process operated by the World Intellectual Property Organization to extend the client's domestic trademark registrations to other member countries of the Protocol.
- **Michelle S. Robins** of our Family Law Department coordinated and co-presented a program for the Family Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association entitled "Beyond Elkins: Valley Style." The program highlighted recent changes in family law. Numerous Judicial officers, attorneys and other professionals attended the program.
- **Addie De La Torre** and **Sarah Thrift** helped launch the new Paralegal Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Through their efforts, the section held its first event, "Social Networking Research and Investigations: What are the Legal and Ethical Issues?" last month.