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Meet Past and Future
SFVBA President
David Gurnick

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Meet Past and Future SFVBA President David Gurnick

By Angela M. Hutchinson

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The San Fernando Valley Bar Association's 83rd president, David Gurnick, will take office on September 22, 2012 at SFVBA's Annual Autumn Gala.

DAVID GURNICK practices law with the Lewitt Hackman firm in Encino. Gurnick represents manufacturers, franchisors, cooperatives, distributors, dealers and franchisees from wide ranging industries in preparation of distribution agreements, franchise law compliance, antitrust and competition matters, government investigations, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, e-commerce and related litigation.

Gurnick earned his bachelor's degree in 1981 from the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. At UCLA, he was a member of the Student Council and University Policies Commission and chair of the Judicial Review Committee. He received his law degree in 1984 from the University of California, Berkeley. While in law school, he served as Judicial Extern to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Gurnick is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and Ninth Circuit, and U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, and is a member of the Bar in the District of Columbia. He is certified by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Franchising and Distribution Law.

Gurnick has written numerous articles on franchise and distribution law subjects. He was a contributing co-author for "International Franchising," a text on law and strategies for international franchising programs. Gurnick is also the author of "Distribution Law of the United States," a book on U.S. law and practices for product distribution, and "Franchising Depositions" a treatise on taking and defending depositions in franchising cases. Both of Gurnick's books are published by Juris Publishing Company.

In the past, Gurnick served as an adjunct professor of law, teaching franchising. He has been a panelist numerous times at the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising, and International Franchise Association Legal Symposium. Previously, he was on the editorial board of the American Bar Association Franchise Law Journal. In addition, Gurnick is past president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, past chair of its Business Law Section and of its Litigation Section. He is a past trustee of the University of West Los Angeles College of Law, past president of the Valley Community Legal Foundation and past and also a present trustee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

"David brings years of Board experience to the presidency



(including a term as Bar President eighteen years ago), and the Bar is fortunate to have David as its incoming leader, not only for the experience he brings, but his intellect, his calm demeanor, and most important in the world of the legal profession, his character," says Alan Sedley, outgoing SFVBA president. "I wish to extend my best wishes to our incoming President."

Valley Lawyer is excited to further acquaint its readers with Gurnick and his goals as the SFVBA's new president.

Valley Lawyer: You were SFVBA's president from 1993 to 1994. Why take on this position again?

David Gurnick: Working as an officer with fellow SFVBA lawyers was a challenge and also gratifying. It felt good and still does—to have influence in our Bar Association and for my ideas to have a lasting effect in the legal community. Staying involved came naturally. The Valley and SFVBA are different today than 20 years ago.

VL: What's different in the Valley from the 90s to now?

DG: The Valley is busier. Law practices

are more varied. Our geography is more diverse. In the 1980s and 1990s, law was transitioning from more of a residential community practice focused on domestic matters, such as family law and wills. Those practices remain important and growing. Meanwhile, three courthouses were added [Chatsworth, a second Van Nuys courthouse and the Woodland Hills bankruptcy court]. Today, there is much more business law and business litigation.

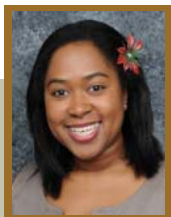
VL: What are your goals as SFVBA's new president?

DG: To lead the SFVBA to be more of a

club helping our members. We're small enough to help members get more business, help members get to know each other socially. We can recognize successes. We can help those who are going through difficulties and are in need.

VL: How does the SFVBA best serve its members?

DG: SFVBA is a place to grow as lawyers. Here, you can become known in a field by getting an article in *Valley Lawyer*. You can be a leader in a practice area by chairing a Section. You can learn more in an area by participating in a Section. We are small



Angela M. Hutchinson serves as the Managing Editor of *Valley Lawyer* magazine, and she was recently accepted to law school. Hutchinson is also a published author and entrepreneur within the entertainment field. She and her husband of nine years have two young children. Hutchinson can be reached at editor@sfvba.org.

so the organizational chart is flat, and the path to leadership is short.

SFVBA enables lawyers to meet judges outside of court, in a professional, ethical setting. Through the SFVBA, lawyers can speak collectively on practice-related issues; get our board of trustees to adopt a position on an issue. You can serve pro bono, help the courts with mediations, perform public service, and socialize with other lawyers. You can get business from our referral service.

VL: Any fears as the 83rd president?

DG: Whether a term of just one year is enough time... But we have great fellow officers Adam Grant (VP/Pres-Elect), Caryn Sanders (Secretary) and Carol Newman (Treasurer); we also have a good line-up of future leaders.

others in matters that are important to them. Writing and teaching are ways to study your field even deeper and share that knowledge with others. These are different ways a lawyer can practice, and be of service to others.

VL: Is there any other message you'd like to tell your fellow SFVBA attorney members?

DG: Yes! You and your colleagues are excellent, committed lawyers. Paralegals too. You are hard working and are getting good results for lots of real people in our Valley community.

The folks you represent in litigation, wills, divorces, adoptions, business deals and insolvency, criminal defense, taxes, mediations, and the list goes on—they depend on your help, and they appreciate all you are doing.

More than that, your work is critical to our society of freedom under law. Win or lose on any particular matter, your work benefits our society. What you do every day is important, and very much appreciated. So my message is thanks to all Valley lawyers, for all you do for clients and the community. 🙏

“Thank you to all Valley lawyers, for all you do for clients and the community.”
—David Gurnick

VL: Tell our readers something they wouldn't find in your professional bio?

DG: My dad started work every day between 2:00 A.M and 4:00 A.M., driving his truck, selling fruits and vegetables to restaurants. My mom wrote the checks. They put four sons through college without health insurance, student loans, vacations or a day-off to be sick. My parents told everyone, “David's going to be a lawyer.” That sounded good. Every day of practicing law is the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

VL: You've written two published books and taught franchise law. What made you pursue those endeavors?

DG: A career in law lets you do so much. In the daily practice you help