

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

818.990.2120

www.lewitthackman.com

16633 Ventura Boulevard

Eleventh Floor

Encino, California 91436

Year-End Tax & Estate Planning: Michael Hackman (Certified Specialist in Tax Law) and Kira S. Masteller will discuss this year's best strategies to effectively maximize your tax, trust and estate planning on Wednesday, November 2nd. We will provide parking, a light breakfast and MCLE or CPE continuing education credits. Contact Chris Podbielski for information and to RSVP: cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com.

OCTOBER 2016

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Kira S. Masteller**, installed as President of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for the 2016-17 term. **Hannah Sweiss** joined the Board of Trustees, and in the same ceremony, **Stephen T. Holzer** was sworn in to the Board of Directors for the Valley Community Legal Foundation.

Nicole Kamm and **Amy I. Huberman** successfully obtained a temporary restraining order against a client's former employee, while also convincing that former employee to return confidential documents and information to our client. Initially, the former employee denied he had possession of these documents, but after several days of negotiation, Amy and Nicole recovered the documents and information for the client.

Kira S. Masteller prepared a Family Limited Partnership for clients allowing them to keep a General Partnership interest and control of the assets transferred to the partnership, while giving gifts of limited partnership interests to their children. This allows the children to receive income directly from the partnership (at a lower rate than the parents), as well as to remove assets from the parents' estate, keeping the future growth and appreciation out of their taxable estate.

Barry Kurtz and **David Gurnick** (Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law) assisted a franchisor in completing the reacquisition of a former franchised location. The franchisee-owners divorced and disputed the proposed purchase price, which delayed completion of the purchase. Barry and David were able to negotiate a resolution that enabled the transaction to be completed at the originally agreed price.

Lynn Soodik (Certified Family Law Specialist) appeared on *Extra TV* to provide insights into the Brad Pitt/Angelina Jolie divorce, particularly in regards to child custody matters, prenuptial agreements and division of property. Having represented several celebrity clients, Lynn is often called on by national media outlets to comment on high-profile divorces.

Paul C. Bauducco obtained a substantial fraud judgment for a client in an adversarial case in the Bankruptcy Court following a multi-week trial. The non-dischargeable judgment will allow the Firm's client to pursue collection of the judgment against the debtor notwithstanding the bankruptcy.

Tal Burnovski Yeyni and **Sue M. Bendavid** won three separate discovery motions against a Plaintiff in a wrongful termination and race discrimination suit against our client. The judge not only ordered the Plaintiff to provide full responses without objections, he also ordered Plaintiff to pay monetary sanctions to the firm's client.

Tal Grinblat (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) renewed franchise registrations and updated disclosure documents for a sushi franchisor with over 3,500 locations in the U.S.

Keith T. Zimmet, President and Managing Shareholder of our firm, was quoted by *Valley Lawyer* in a special feature spotlighting law firms belonging to the *President's Circle* of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. In the magazine, Keith commented on how Lewitt Hackman has grown with the Valley over the last 45 years, and described our firm's continuing efforts over the years to serve the local community at large, both in professional and charitable capacities.



Kira S. Masteller represented clients in a successful mediation case between a surviving step-parent (surviving spouse) and the children of a deceased parent. An A-B Trust was improperly administered and rather than go through years of disagreements, the children were paid in full for their share now, rather than at the surviving spouse's death. As resolved, the surviving spouse no longer has to account/report to the step-children, and our clients, the step-children, having received full and fair payment of their trust share, no longer have to pursue the proper administration of the trust.

Hannah Sweiss quickly resolved a claim brought to the Labor Commissioner for overtime and combined rest breaks, by negotiating a nominal settlement amount for our garment manufacturer client.

Tal Grinblat filed an action and obtained an order invalidating a cited trademark registration blocking our client's trademark application. This cleared the way for the Trademark Office to approve our client's mark for registration. In a separate matter, Tal assisted a client in the fitness field overcome a Trademark Office refusal by opposing the trademark application of another mark which was cited against the client. This led to the parties entering into a coexistence agreement, thereby clearing the path for our client's application to proceed to registration.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Family Law Specialist) teamed up with a retired judge to resolve a divorce that had been pending for three years. Vanessa and the Judge convinced the parties in two settlement conferences to resolve their issues by compromising – thus avoiding further contention, multiple court hearings and many months waiting for a family law court to make a decision – all of which would have been slower and much more expensive for the parties.

David Gurnick has been invited to speak at the American Bar Association's annual Forum on Franchising in Miami in November. David and a co-presenter will provide an overview of this past year's judicial developments in franchising.

Sue M. Bendavid provided sex harassment, discrimination, bullying and retaliation prevention training via webinar for a staffing agency client. Geared particularly for supervisors, the training is mandated by California law for companies with more than 50 employees. Participants logged in from several states.

Keith T. Zimmet and **David Gurnick** spoke on *Ethical Pitfalls: Avoiding Unexpected Conflicts of Interest* for the City of Calabasas' annual Law Day program. Participants included two members of the Calabasas City Council and other community lawyers.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Valley Lawyer (a publication of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association)
How to Lead Your Clients to Purchase a Franchise - **Barry Kurtz**, author

BuzzFeed News
Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie to Divvy Up Vast Estate During Divorce - **Lynn Soodik** quoted

Valley Lawyer (a publication of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association)
Taking a Different Path: Meet SFVBA's New President - **Kira S. Masteller**, featured

Super Lawyers
Top Women Lawyers in Southern California 2016

Sue M. Bendavid (Employment)

Kira S. Masteller (Estate & Probate)

Lynn Soodik (Family Law)

Nicole Kamm (*Up and Coming 50 Women*, Employment)

Vanessa Soto Nellis (*Up and Coming 50 Women*, Family Law)

SFV Business Journal
2016 Valley's Most Trusted Advisors - **Barry T. Harlan**, selected

The Franchise Lawyer (a publication of the ABA Forum Committee on Franchising)
The Franchise System's Role in Combatting Terrorism - **David Gurnick**, author

Best Lawyers Business Edition
2016 Best Lawyers, Family Law - **Barry T. Harlan**, selected

Rising Stars
2016 Up-and-Coming Southern California Attorneys & Rising Stars
Vanessa Soto Nellis (Up-and-Coming Top 100, Family Law Rising Star)
Nicole Kamm (Up-and-Coming Top 100, Employment Rising Star)

Nicholas Kanter (Business Litigation)

Hannah Sweiss (*Business Litigation*)

The Franchise Law Journal (a publication of the American Bar Association)
Technical Terms for Comparative Trademark Analysis - **David Gurnick**, author

The Business Journals
Guidelines When Considering Buying a Franchise - **Barry Kurtz**, contributor

SFV Business Journal
Labor and Employment Roundtable: What Employers Need to Know - **Sue M. Bendavid**, panelist

Valley Lawyer (a publication of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association)
Music Publisher Caught in Birthday Suit Agrees to Settle - **Tal Grinblat** and **Nicholas Kanter**, co-authors