

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:

Stephen T. Holzer, Chair of our Environmental Practice Group, and **William Wolf, CPA**, of Squar Milner, will present *Environmental Concerns: Your Business, Your Property, Your Money*, on June 13th. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of MCLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski, cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, 818.907.3271.

JUNE 2013

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Lewitt Hackman was named one of 2013's *Top Ranked Law Firms in California*. Of more than 43,000 firms considered, only 222 earned this distinction. The rankings were compiled by LexisNexis Martindale Hubbell, and were based on size of the firm and the number of attorneys who earned Martindale Hubbell's coveted *AV Preeminent* rating.

Sue M. Bendavid represented a client at a Labor Commissioner hearing. A former employee sought about \$20,000 in alleged unpaid overtime and penalties. The plaintiff however, didn't have much of a case considering she embezzled over \$230,000 from her former employer. Two Los Angeles plain clothes police detectives led the plaintiff away in handcuffs just minutes before the Labor Commissioner hearing was scheduled to begin.

John B. Marshall and **Paul C. Bauducco**, aggressively defending a collection agency client, settled multiple Fair Debt Collection Practices Act claims for sums well below the demands made by the Plaintiffs.

Andrew L. Shapiro and **David B. Bobrosky** of our Personal Injury Practice Group, obtained a seven figure settlement for a client who suffered a concussion with persistent Post-Concussion Syndrome, resulting from an accident when riding as a passenger in a classic car. The vintage auto had only a lap belt with no shoulder harness, allowing the client to hit her head on the dashboard in a front-end collision. The defense tried to claim an "assumption of risk" by our client. All mediation attempts failed, but continuing private negotiations allowed Andy and Dave to resolve the matter favorably for the client just before Trial.

Tal Grinblat and **Nick Kanter** obtained a dismissal of a third party's Opposition to our client's clothing trademark. The party claimed consumer confusion between her mark for concept and brand development in the entertainment field, and our client's mark for clothing. The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board granted Tal and Nick's motion to dismiss on the grounds that confusion did not exist, which enabled our client's application to move forward.



Paul C. Bauducco obtained for our client a *Relief from Stay* in the Bankruptcy Court, allowing our client to proceed in State Court against the defendant on claims for fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

Kira S. Masteller represented a client in a mediation involving a trust contest, wherein one child created an amendment to a Trust that favored himself, just before the parent's death. The mediation was successful the amendment disregarded, and an equitable distribution to all of the children was made, pursuant to the parent's wishes.

Tal Grinblat and **David Gurnick** negotiated the settlement of a trademark dispute, when an opposing company claimed that it made use of the same word in its trademark as our client. The settlement allows both parties to continue using their respective marks, with some limitations to assure there is no public confusion. As part of the settlement, the other side dismissed a petition they filed, objecting to our client obtaining federal registration of its trademark.

Nicole Kamm obtained a favorable result for a client in a Labor Commissioner assessment, estimated initially at more than \$130,000 for missed rest breaks and overtime. Nicole convinced the agency to dismiss the rest break claim altogether, and settle the overtime claim for a significantly lesser amount.

Michael Hackman, Stephen T. Holzer, Sue M. Bendavid, Tal Grinblat, Kira S. Masteller, David Gurnick, and Michelle S. Robins attended the annual Valley Community Legal Foundation's *Fundraising Law Day Gala*. The VCLF uses the funds to fund a variety of *pro bono* and other law-related projects throughout the Valley.

David Gurnick and **Tal Grinblat**, both Certified Specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law (State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization), attended the *International Franchise Association Legal Symposium* in Washington D.C., and were designated as facilitators of discussion groups regarding trademarks and noncompetition restrictions.

Nicole Kamm resolved a Division of Labor Standards Enforcement claim for misclassification of a worker as an independent contractor, rather than employee, for no penalty on our client's part, and a voluntary dismissal of the alleged overtime claim.

Stephen T. Holzer and other area attorneys, observed Law Day on May 1st by providing legal advice to the Calabasas community. The event, sponsored by the Calabasas Chamber of Commerce, took place at the city's Civic Center. The Chamber plans to make this an annual Law Day event.

Kira S. Masteller co-presented a seminar to members of the Warner Center Estate Planning Council regarding estate planning for intellectual property, including how to plan and assign copyrights, trademarks, patents, and trade secrets. Kira was also a presenter at the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Tax Conference, and the May California CPA meeting regarding Estate and Tax Planning for 2013 and beyond.

David Gurnick delivered opening remarks at *Ask the Judges Night*, in which the public was invited to meet and ask questions of a panel of Superior Court Judges. Held at California State University Northridge, David gave remarks as President of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Valley Lawyer

Enforcement Before Adjudication: The Writ of Attachment

by Stephan Mihalovits

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Checking In, Checking Out: The Financial Issues in Buying or Selling a Hotel

by Keith T. Zimmet

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