

April, 2012

**Firm Seminars:**

Lewitt Hackman presents complimentary seminars in our Board Room for clients and friends on a variety of legal topics. **Michael Hackman**, Certified Tax Specialist as designated by the State Bar of California and Chair of our Trust and Estate Planning Practice Group, **Kira S. Masteller**, and a wealth advisor from Union Bank will present our next seminar regarding **financial management and estate planning on Wednesday, May 2, 2012**, at 8 a.m. A light breakfast will be served, and attorneys may earn one hour of CLE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewithackman.com, 818.907.3271.

**Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments:**

- **Nicole Kamm** rejoined our Employment Practice Group as an Associate, where she will continue to represent employers in all aspects of employee claim prevention, supervisor training and litigation defense. Nicole graduated *Cum Laude* from Pepperdine University School of Law, and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.
- **Keith T. Zimmet**, Managing Shareholder and Chair of our Commercial Finance Practice Group, was lead counsel for a non-profit client in its \$40,000,000 tax exempt bond offering. The offering was made through the California Statewide Communities Development Authority and involved state and local governments, bankers, lawyers, and accountants in several states, and a qualified institutional buyer who purchased a participation interest in the tax exempt bonds. The transaction also required a defeasance of the client's prior tax exempt bond offering. The proceeds of the offering will be used by the client to build educational facilities.
- **John B. Marshall** and **Paul C. Bauducco**, with help from Paralegal **Sarah Thrift**, settled a potential class action lawsuit regarding interest rates charged by a client. While the client had good defenses, the settlement saved the client substantial amounts in potential litigation fees and costs.
- **David Gurnick** and **Nicholas Kanter** persuaded a plaintiff to drop litigation against a New York client, by first getting a Los Angeles federal court to agree there was no personal jurisdiction in California over our out-of-state client, for alleged violation of federal anti-racketeering law.
- **Sue M. Bendavid**, Chair of our Employment Law Practice Group, presented evidence to the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (the Labor Commissioner's Office) which prompted the agency to dismiss a case by a client's former employee who alleged unpaid overtime and penalties. By quashing potential litigation, Sue saved our client substantial amounts in potential fees, court costs and lost time.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **Robert A. Hull** restructured the ownership of a multi-member, family owned, limited liability company with significant real property holdings via a series of transactions involving cash payments and issuing notes and security. **Michael Hackman**, Chair of our Tax Planning Practice Group, analyzed the tax aspects of alternative financial structures.



- **Paul C. Bauducco**, Chair of our Business Litigation Practice Group, obtained court determination that a strategically important settlement for a client involved in multiparty litigation was made in good faith, defeating a motion opposing the good faith settlement determination by a non-settling party.
- **Kevin E. Rex** assisted a client in restructuring the ownership of a business, which included redeeming interests held by an employee and evaluating methods to reward employees for their contributions to the company's growth. In other matters, Kevin is working with several clients in an effort to resolve disputes between the owners.
- **David Gurnick**, a State Bar Certified Specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law, assisted a national franchisor in terminating an east coast franchisee who committed ongoing contract breaches. The termination included preparing announcements to inform customers, employees, other franchisees and a government agency, in case the ex-franchisee sought to continue servicing the franchisor's customers.
- **Barry T. Harlan**, a Certified Family Law Specialist designated by the State Bar of California and Chair of our Family Law Practice Group, and **Michelle S. Robins**, settled a highly contentious divorce case that involved the complex division of several retirement plans and a medical practice.
- **Kevin E. Rex** and **David Gurnick** represented a consultant to radio broadcasters in arbitration and in settling the client's claims against former partners in the client's firm. The settlement resolved disputes concerning interests in intellectual property of the consulting firm.
- **Sue M. Bendavid**, **Nicholas Kanter** and **Stephan Mihalovits** represented several Firm clients in claims by former employees for disability discrimination, race discrimination, retaliation and wrongful termination. Our attorneys showed that the terminations were lawfully-based on legitimate business reasons.
- **Vanessa Soto Nellis** obtained a judgment of dissolution for a couple who attempted to dissolve their marriage without legal counsel, resulting in multiple rejections of their forms by a family law court. When they finally sought help, Vanessa mediated their divorce, which saved the clients money on legal costs, and obtained a prompt dissolution. In another matter, **Barry T. Harlan** and Vanessa obtained a modification to a prior court order which greatly benefited the client and his cash flow.
- **Thomas Cecil**, a Shareholder in our Personal Injury Practice Group, successfully represented a young woman struck by a car while crossing the street in a cross walk near her high school. The client injured her knee and was forced to miss a season of soccer, a sport at which she excelled, while she recuperated from her injuries. Through mediation, Tom recovered all of our client's medical expenses, lost wages – as well as the human costs for pain, suffering and loss of enjoyment of life.
- **Sue M. Bendavid** provided sexual harassment prevention training for supervisors of several Firm clients. The training sessions are mandated by California law every two years, for employers with 50 or more employees.
- Attorneys and Paralegals from our Litigation, Corporate, Employment, Environmental, Family Law, Franchise, Health, Intellectual Property, Tax, and Trust and Estate Planning Practice Groups attended the annual *Judge's Night* of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Lewitt Hackman joined in recognizing the work of judges and commissioners in our San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles federal and state courts. The Chief Justice of California, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court and Presiding Judges of the Valley courthouses also attended.