

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:

2013 Year-End Tax Planning will be presented Tuesday, December 3rd, by **Michael Hackman**, a Certified Specialist in Tax Law (California State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization), **Kira S. Masteller** and **Robert A. Hull**. A light breakfast will be served, and attendees may earn MCLE or CPE credit. RSVP to Chris Podbielski: cpodbielski@lewitthackman.com, 818.990.2120.

NOVEMBER 2013

Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

Kevin E. Rex and **John B. Marshall** assisted a client with the multi-million dollar sale of a commercial property. The property had previously fallen out of escrow as a result of environmental issues, but Kevin and John were able to work closely with the client, the broker and the buyer to resolve the complex issues surrounding the property. In a related matter, Kevin worked with the client to successfully appeal and overturn the reassessment of several of the client's commercial properties.

Sue M. Bendavid persuaded the Employment Development Department to reverse a ruling on an unemployment insurance claim. Sue demonstrated the claimant was actually an independent contractor and thus not entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.

John B. Marshall and **Paul C. Bauducco** settled a lawsuit against a collection agency client for a minimal sum, saving the client many thousands of dollars in legal fees.

David Gurnick is a contributing author to the American Bar Association's first law school textbook regarding Franchise Law. The text is entitled, *Franchising: Cases, Materials & Problems*, and presents theoretical and practical cases, analysis and questions on franchising law and policy.

Tal Grinblat convinced a trademark applicant based in another country to abandon two applications for trademarks similar to those of our cosmetics industry client, even though the Trademark Office already approved the competitor's applications for publication. Tal's actions saved our client the time and expense of having to formally oppose the applications.

Andrew L. Shapiro, **Thomas Cecil** and **David B. Bobrosky** obtained a mid-six figure settlement, the insured's policy limit, for a client whose hand was bitten by a dog. Our client suffered subsequent infection requiring a three day hospital stay and surgery for the damaged tendons.



David Gurnick and **Stephan Mihalovits** won dismissal of a civil rights case in a federal court. The

action claimed the firm's clients conspired with a judge and court-appointed officials, to deprive an ex-spouse of contact with his children. In addition to denying that the claim had any merit, David and Steve showed the federal court that it had no jurisdiction, because the underlying matter is pending in State Court. The federal court agreed and dismissed the civil rights claim.

Michelle S. Robins working with **Vanessa Soto Nellis**, resolved a dissolution of marriage matter by working with opposing counsel to reach an amicable resolution that met their client's settlement goals.

Robert A. Hull formed several liability companies and limited partnerships to protect an entertainment client's new production ventures.

Kira S. Masteller is working on a life insurance trust for a married couple wherein a Trustee will own the life insurance in an Irrevocable Trust so the death benefit will not be included in either the husband's or wife's estates. The children will not have to pay estate tax on the insurance proceeds, creating a greater wealth transfer for the family.

Nicole Kamm obtained a settlement through the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement for alleged unpaid wages without incurring additional penalties and interest. In another matter, Nicole resolved an alleged pregnancy discrimination claim for a nominal amount.

Robert A. Hull worked with a client who relocated from the Midwest, in writing a new will, amending and restating a trust, and providing new powers of attorney. She wished to update her current estate planning documents, which were drafted in accordance with Illinois law.

Kira S. Masteller prepared a Petition requesting the Court confirm the transfer of eight real properties into a husband and wife's revocable trust created in 1988. The original transfer deeds did not name the Trustees of the trust on the transfer deeds. The husband subsequently died, leaving the wife unable to clear title on the properties because of the error.

Tal Grinblat and **Nicholas Kanter** persuaded a trademark examiner to approve a mark for registration for a computer game client, despite her concerns that the trademark may conflict with the registration of another company. Tal and Nick showed why the mark cited was sufficiently different and that the parties' goods did not overlap. The outcome finally allowed the client's application to move forward after nearly three years.

Sue M. Bendavid provided Sex Harassment Prevention Training for an electronics manufacturing business. This training is required to be given by all businesses employing 50 workers or more every two years under Assembly Bill 1825. Sue also worked with another client to reduce potential wage and hour claims by providing training on best practices for reimbursement of employee expenses.

David Gurnick received the *Justice Armand Arabian Award for Community Service*, along with fellow awardees Pat Boone and Wink Martindale. **Michael Hackman, Paul C. Bauducco, Stephen T. Holzer, Sue M. Bendavid, Tal Grinblat, Robert A. Hull, Stephan Mihalovits** and **Maurice Lewitt** attended the event, sponsored by the Encino Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA MENTIONS

Valley Lawyer

When Is It Lawful to Use Other People's Intellectual Property?

by David Gurnick & Tal Grinblat

Super Lawyers Magazine

2013 Top Women Attorneys in Southern California:

Sue M. Bendavid
Michelle S. Robins
Lynn Soodik

Valley Lawyer

Understanding Conflicts of Interest in Estate Planning

by Kira S. Masteller

CNN Entertainment

Jason Patric: Custody Fight is for My Son

Lynn Soodik Interviewed

LA Talk Radio

Broad Topics with Laura Nickerson: Estate Planning

Robert A. Hull Interviewed

Los Angeles Daily Journal

Pre-1978 Works Require Diligent Record-Keeping

by Nicholas Kanter

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal

Employment Law Roundtable: What Owners & Executives Need to Know

Sue M. Bendavid & David Gurnick quoted

Super Lawyers Magazine

2013 Rising Stars of Southern California named:

Elizabeth A. Erickson
Robert A. Hull
Nicole Kamm
Nicholas Kanter