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## Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments

### BUSINESS PRACTICE GROUPS

- Business & Civil Litigation
- Commercial Finance
- Corporate
- Employment
- Environmental
- Franchise & Distribution
- Health Care
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Tax Planning

### CONSUMER PRACTICE GROUPS

- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Trust & Estate Planning

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Congratulations to: **Jana G. Garrotto**, **Alex J. Hemmelgarn**, **Jessica W. Rosen**, **Matthew J. Soroky** and **Katherine L. Wallman**, all promoted to Shareholders as of January 1, 2023. Matt and Kate are both California Bar Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law – Matt also works in Business Litigation and Intellectual Property, while Kate represents Corporate clients. Jessica is also part of the Franchise & Distribution Practice Group and represents clients in Business Litigation and Employment as well. Jana and Alex are both Trust & Estate Planning attorneys; Alex is also a tax and corporate attorney.

**Sue M. Bendavid** worked with a client in conducting mass layoffs. This included consultation regarding employee selection, as well as the preparation of separation agreements.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** and **Matthew J. Soroky** negotiated a favorable settlement of claims involving copyright infringement and related statutory claims arising from our client's temporary use of a photograph on a website. Jeff & Matt's investigation turned up material facts that significantly limited our client's potential exposure.

**Jana G. Garrotto** and **Kyla A. Parrino** filed a petition seeking authorization to transfer several California real properties to our client's trust. The court granted the petition. The client's now-deceased spouse had inadvertently purchased and retained title to the properties in his individual name rather than to his trust. The preparation, filing and expedient granting of the Petition was necessary because of several ongoing sales of the properties which required the trust to be listed as the owner.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Katherine L. Wallman** (both Certified Specialists in Franchise Law) worked with a franchisee in the fitness industry in selling their unit to another operator. Tal and Kate managed to finalize the transactions quickly, allowing our client to close the sale before year-end.

**Keith T. Zimmet** represented our client through the acquisition of a large retail shopping center. In addition to the typical legal issues involved in acquiring a shopping center, this particular transaction involved interesting legal issues arising under an unusual existing ground lease and atypical easements.

**Kira S. Masteller**, **John B. Marshall** and **Paul C. Bauducco** completed a complex multi-million dollar purchase of a commercial property for a client pursuant to a partition action and sale.

**Barry Kurtz** (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) prepared a letter of intent for our franchisor client and a developer/franchisee, to develop and operate multiple franchised restaurants in markets around the world. In a separate but similar matter, Barry and **Katherine L. Wallman** prepared development and franchise agreements for a client deploying restaurants in Hong Kong.

**Sue M. Bendavid** and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** worked with clients to analyze compliance and potential actions based on the new *Pay Transparency Act*, which became effective as of January 1, 2023. The new law requires disclosures of pay scales and other legal requirements that impact how employers classify workers and set pay scales.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** successfully resolved patent and trade dress infringement claims for a client in the consumer products industry. The resolution was very favorable for the client.

**David B. Bobrosky** and **Andrew L. Shapiro** of our Personal Injury Practice Group represented a bicyclist struck by a national company's commercial vehicle. At first, the driver denied responsibility for the collision. Through investigation and discovery, David and Andy proved liability for the incident, and serious injuries for the client. The case was resolved for a confidential multi-million dollar amount.

**Sue M. Bendavid** defended a client against a former employee's claim of harassment. Sue argued the alleged acts were neither severe nor pervasive. At the end of mediation before the California Civil Rights Department, the former employee agreed to resolve his dispute by payment of \$100.

**Tal Grinblat, Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** and **Matthew J. Soroky** prevailed on a motion to strike the defendant's affirmative defenses, representing a client in the restaurant services industry in a trademark cancellation proceeding pending before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

**Jana G. Garrotto** and **Kyla A. Parrino** brought a Petition on behalf of a Trustee that the court granted, allowing for a modification of an irrevocable trust to clarify ambiguous language. Jana and Kyla provided evidence indicating the settlor wished for her son to receive real property, thus allowing the modification and accommodating the trust creator's intent.

**Barry Kurtz** and **Caitlyn Dillon** are preparing franchise disclosure documents for a client selling franchises in the dog grooming industry.

**Matthew J. Soroky** settled a case in which the plaintiff claimed our client's website was not compliant with web accessibility guidelines.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** represented a client in the alcoholic beverages industry, successfully resolving a trademark dispute with another party on favorable terms for the client.

**David G. Jones** analyzed race discrimination claims against a global freight company. On review, Dave advised insurance counsel to take a more aggressive litigation position instead of settling, as the insurance company initially recommended. As a result, depositions uncovered highly damaging information which resulted in settlements of a mere fraction of the multi-million dollar demands the insurance company advised paying.

**Barry Kurtz** and **Matthew J. Soroky** deconstructed an unfavorable financing agreement for our client dealing with a multi-unit franchisee. Barry and Matt replaced the unfair finance arrangement with a more equitable agreement for the parties.

**Jana G. Garrotto** and **Kyla A. Parrino** worked to transfer our client's interests in various business entities, including interests from prior employers, into the client's living trust. The transfer allows the interests to pass to the trust beneficiaries pursuant to our client's wishes.

**Barry Kurtz** and **Taylor M. Vernon** represent a client working to purchase a motorcycle dealership. In other matters, Barry and Taylor are working with several clients selling or purchasing a variety of franchised businesses.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Matthew J. Soroky** negotiated a favorable resolution to a Trademark Cancellation action filed by a third party against our client's existing trademark registration. The settlement paved the way for our client's registration to continue in force and provided for a long-term usage agreement with the other party.

**David Gurnick** (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) presented an update and overview of Franchise Law to the Business & Real Property Law Section of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Certified Family Law Specialist) and Paralegal **Joni Davis** coordinated and ran "Settle-o-Rama" for the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. This is a three-day program in which family law attorneys and experts help settle cases set for trial in Van Nuys, Chatsworth, and Pasadena's family law courts. The program freed up valuable trial time for busy courts. For the first time in the program's history, attorneys resolved a number of cases remotely.

## Publications & Media Mentions

### **Los Angeles Daily Journal**

*Amendments to California franchise laws in the New Year*

**Barry Kurtz** and **Matthew J. Soroky**, authors

**Valley Lawyer** (San Fernando Valley Bar Association magazine)

*California's New Motor Vehicle Board: Representing Car Makers and Dealers*  
**David Gurnick**, author

### **Boulder Law**

*Letter From Brentwood- Part 2*

**Mark J. Phillips**, co-author

### **Best Lawyers Magazine**

*2023 Best Lawyers*

**Sue M. Bendavid, David Gurnick, Michael Hackman, Jeffrey A. Kobulnick, Barry Kurtz, Kira S. Masteller, Andrew L. Shapiro, Lynn Soodik** selected; **Jessica W. Rosen** named in *Ones to Watch*

**Business of Law: Trends, Updates, Visionaries & The In-House Counsel Leadership Awards** (a publication of the *Los Angeles Times*)

**Barry Kurtz** featured

### **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**

*Labor & Employment Roundtable July 2022*

**Sue M. Bendavid**, participant

### **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**

*Supreme Court Limits PAGA*

**David G. Jones** quoted

### **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**

*2022 Women of Influence*

**Sue M. Bendavid, Katherine L. Wallman**, and **Jessica W. Rosen** featured

### **Super Lawyers Magazine**

*2022 Southern California Rising Stars*

**Chrystal Ferber, Gayane Ghandilyan, Jessica W. Rosen, Matthew J. Soroky** and **Taylor M. Vernon** named

**Valley Lawyer** (San Fernando Valley Bar Association magazine)

*Proposition 65: Primer and Alert*

**Stephen T. Holzer** and **Steven L. Feldman**, authors