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**Recent Professional & Community Accomplishments**

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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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**Barry Kurtz** (Certified Franchise & Distribution Law Specialist) was selected to the *Los Angeles Business Journal - Inside the Valley's* 2024 list of "Trusted Advisors." The LABJ based their final selections on the impact the nominees made on their respective professions in the San Fernando Valley.

**Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** was selected to the 2024 edition of the "World Trademark Review 1000 – The World's Leading Trademark Professionals." This recognition goes to individuals around the globe deemed to have outstanding trademark expertise.

**Tal Grinblat** (Certified Franchise & Distribution Law Specialist) was named a "Legal Eagle" for the 10th consecutive year by the *Franchise Times*. Featuring attorneys in the U.S. and Canada, the magazine selects "the best lawyers who specialize in all things franchising."

**Kira S. Masteller** and her administrative team completed a Property Ownership Agreement and separated 21 co-owned properties for a couple who was getting divorced, creating separate property trusts to fulfill their co-ownership agreement. Kira and team transferred all properties into the separate trusts to collectively benefit the couple's children, while avoiding property tax reassessment.

**Matthew J. Soroky** (Certified Franchise & Distribution Law Specialist) represents a restaurant franchisee in negotiations with a franchisor to have a default notice withdrawn. In a separate matter, Matt and **Barry Kurtz** are preparing franchise documents for a testosterone therapy center.

**John B. Marshall, Heidi A. Nurinda and Paul C. Bauducco** successfully opposed a motion to strike portions of a cross-complaint, preserving material allegations in the cross-complaint.

**Sue M. Bendavid** worked with a client facing an audit before the U.S. Department of Labor. After several meetings, the auditor ultimately agreed that the client complied with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Thomas M. Morrow** successfully won two motions before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, eliminating the opposing party's affirmative defenses and reducing the defendant to only two stated defenses (out of 8). The Board also agreed to consolidate both proceedings due to overlap in the parties and facts underlying the cases.

**Vanessa Soto Nellis** (Certified Family Law Specialist) met with opposing counsel and the parties involved to settle a divorce for a long-term marriage. Both parties agreed to compromise and brought the matter to a resolution in a few weeks, keeping legal costs to a minimum.

**Andrew L. Shapiro** obtained a substantial six figure recovery for a client who tripped and fell on a condo unit's walkway. Our client fractured her teeth and elbow, and required plastic surgery to repair her lip. The homeowner's association painted the sidewalk yellow to warn pedestrians. But their failure to repair resulted in liability for the HOA.

**Nicholas Kanter** and **Joshua S. Stein** obtained a six-figure judgment in a real estate dispute. Our client's former tenant filed a lawsuit for wrongful eviction and related claims. Nick and Josh filed a cross-complaint for unpaid rent and fraud, as well as several motions to compel discovery. The motions were granted. The opposing party failed to comply, so our attorneys filed a motion for terminating sanctions. The Court granted the sanctions and entered judgment for our client, awarding attorneys' fees and costs.

**Olivia Li, Joshua S. Stein, and Kira S. Masteller** worked to prepare and file a Domestic Violence Restraining Order. The order was successfully issued by the Court, protecting a household of individuals from a potentially dangerous family member.

**Steven L. Feldman** and **Barry Kurtz** are preparing a lease for a property-owner client that will lease the property to restaurant operators for a new food concept.

**Tal Grinblat** and **Heidy A. Nurinda** successfully overcame a difficult refusal to a pet food company's trademark application. The Examiner initially refused registration of the client's proposed mark, claiming it was confusingly similar to two other existing registrations. Tal and Heidy presented arguments explaining the distinctions between the marks in terms of sound, meaning, and commercial impression. The Examiner approved the mark for publication and allowed the mark to proceed in the registration process.

**David B. Bobrosky** filed a lawsuit against landlords who failed to maintain habitable living conditions for tenants. The corporate defendants filed motions seeking to dismiss the claims. David opposed the motions and proved to the court not only that the claims should continue, but that the conduct allows our clients to seek punitive damages.

**Barry Kurtz** and **Katherine L. Wallman** (Certified Franchise & Distribution Law Specialist) are preparing franchise disclosure documents for a restaurant concept that currently has more than 30 company owned and operated units. In a separate matter, Barry is working with a franchisee client in the sale of a restaurant franchise after 19 years of operations.

**Stephen T. Holzer, Thomas M. Morrow, and Heidy A. Nurinda** successfully mediated and settled a case involving various disputes between homeowners and the homeowner's association. The case settled for a substantial amount, allowing the clients to avoid the expense of an upcoming trial. Additionally, the homeowner's association agreed to resolve all issues pertaining to the client's nuisance complaint.

**Kira S. Masteller** represents three beneficiaries of a trust in preparing and filing a petition in court to have their sibling removed as the acting trustee. Following their parent's death, the sibling failed to comply with California law with respect to the administration of the trust and appears unable to act impartially regarding the parent's home, where the trustee himself resides.

**Barry Kurtz** is working with outside Merger & Acquisition attorneys on our franchise client's sale of over 30 franchise units for a nine figure purchase price.

**Sue M. Bendavid** was the guest speaker at an "HR Summit" and spoke to employers about how to create sound job descriptions that are compliant with applicable laws.

## Publications & Media Mentions

### ***Los Angeles Business Journal - Inside the Valley***

*Labor & Employment - A Roundtable Discussion*

**Sue M. Bendavid**, participant

### ***Los Angeles Business Journal***

*Franchisers Fret*

**Barry Kurtz**, quoted

### ***Los Angeles Daily Journal***

*Appellate ruling limits appearances by trustees and executors in pro per*

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

### ***Los Angeles Business Journal***

*Freedom to Own*

**Barry Kurtz**, quoted

### ***Professionals in Human Resources***

*California Employment Law:*

*Legislative Update*

**Tal Burnovski Yeyni**, author

### ***Best Lawyers Magazine***

*Best Lawyers in America 2024*

**Sue M. Bendavid, Michael**

**Hackman, Barry Kurtz, Kira S.**

**Masteller, Vanessa Soto Nellis,**

**Andrew L. Shapiro, Lynn Soodik**

selected; **Jessica W. Rosen** named

*Ones to Watch*, and **Jeffrey A.**

**Kobulnick** named *Lawyer of the*

*Year: Trademark Law*

### ***Franchise Lawyer*** (published by the American Bar Association)

*Remembering the Late David*

*Gurnick, Franchise Law Specialist,*

*Professor, and Much, Much More*

**Tal Grinblat**, co-author

### ***Los Angeles Daily Journal***

*Legal Implications of the Supreme*

*Court's ruling in Adolph v. Uber*

**Sue M. Bendavid** and **Tal Burnovski**

**Yeyni**, co-authors

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

*Proposition 65: Primer and Alert*

**Stephen T. Holzer** and **Steven L.**

**Feldman**, authors

### ***Los Angeles Daily Journal***

*Employers subject to stricter*

*religious accommodation standards*  
*under Title VII*

**Tal Burnovski Yeyni**, author