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A LAW CORPORATION

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MAY 2026

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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Barry Kurtz (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) was named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's 2026 Top Lawyers in Los Angeles* list. This recognition honors leaders who “set the standard for excellence in law.”

Tal Grinblat (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) was named a *Franchise Times Legal Eagle* for the 12th consecutive year. Featuring attorneys in the U.S. and Canada, this list consist of “star legal professionals” in franchising.

Sue M. Bendavid worked with a client to investigate claims of employee misconduct, resulting in the employee’s termination and a negotiated resolution with both the employee and the complainant.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick, on behalf of a graphic artist client, resolved a copyright infringement claim with a national retailer involving several of the client’s designs through an informal resolution, avoiding the cost of litigation.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Specialist in Family Law) helped a client with a postnuptial agreement that modified her prenuptial agreement and provided additional financial security following her spouse’s recent retirement and change in income.

Kira S. Masteller, representing the beneficiaries of two trusts, resolved a long-disputed trust accounting after working with forensic accountants to locate errors in the trustee’s accounting and avoiding the need to file a court petition.

Matthew J. Soroky (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) and **Thomas M. Morrow** represented franchise owners pursued by their former franchisor in federal court and negotiated a cost-effective resolution that secured our clients’ early dismissal from the case. In a separate matter, Matt negotiated an early resolution of an arbitration initiated by a client’s former franchisor, enabling the franchisee to remain in the industry after the franchise agreement expired.

Kira S. Masteller completed the transfer of a gift of a minority limited partnership interest from parents to children, enabling the gift to receive a valuation discount, reducing use of the parents’ Federal Gift Tax Exemption and keeping future appreciation in the gifted share of the partnership out of the parent’s taxable estate.

Steven L. Feldman obtained a dismissal of a Proposition 65 lawsuit against a client without them having to pay any money or being subjected to injunctive relief.

Tal Grinblat, Chair of the IP Practice Group, represents a movie production company that identified a trademark application for a virtually identical name filed for spa services. The client was concerned that spa patrons could mistakenly believe that the spa was connected or affiliated with the client. Tal sent a cease and desist letter to the identified applicant, who abandoned her application within 24 hours. Policing trademarks is essential to avoid consumer confusion in the marketplace and prevent the marks from entering the public domain.

Steven L. Feldman secured a settlement and dismissal of an ADA/Unruh Act Construction Related Accessibility lawsuit filed against our client in federal court.

Sue M. Bendavid provided a client with state-required harassment training, helping the client reinforce workplace standards and mitigate risk and liability in the event of a claim.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick persuaded a third party to cease and desist from using a retailer client's trademark in connection with a related business, resolving the matter informally and avoiding litigation costs.

Joshua S. Stein and **Kira S. Masteller** filed an ex parte petition in a guardianship matter seeking an order from the Court to allow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to approve a minor's passport application in time for his summer vacation. Officials denied the initial application because of one sentence in the prior court order.

Tal Burnovski Yeyni participated in meetings with three Assembly member offices as part of the Society for Human Resource Management's advocacy efforts. During these meetings, Tal discussed proposed AI legislation and emphasized the need to amend specific bills to better protect California employers. Tal highlighted concerns with the current language of the bills, focusing on issues related to PAGA, individual liability, and the significant administrative burden these AI mandates would place on small and mid-sized organizations.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick obtained judgment in the favor of a jewelry client in a trademark cancellation proceeding before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Nancy Martinez successfully negotiated and settled a case that began just ten months ago, resulting in a Family Law Judgment entered on our client's behalf. Through skilled negotiation and persistent advocacy, the matter was resolved efficiently and favorably, allowing our client to move forward with certainty and closure in a fraction of the time many family law cases require.

Matthew J. Soroky negotiated resolutions in separate months-long investigations of our franchisor clients by the California department that regulates franchise offers and sales. The final consent orders reduced the number of claimed violations and saved the clients substantial monetary penalties and investigative expenses.

Steven L. Feldman worked with insurance defense counsel to secure a settlement of a habitability lawsuit against an apartment building owner and its property management company.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** hosted a webinar, *Navigating Employee Complaints: A Practical Guide to Investigations and Disciplinary Action*, providing a roadmap for navigating the complexities of workplace complaints.

Stephen T. Holzer moderated a panel on Greenwashing and Microplastics at the LA County Bar's Environmental Spring Symposium.

Publications & Media Mentions

Success Unscripted Podcast, with Jonathan Israel

How Smart Families Protect Wealth Across Generations
Kira S. Masteller, guest

Franchise Times

Broker laws, franchisee protections face funding issues at state level
Tal Grinblat, quoted

Super Lawyers

2026 Southern California Super Lawyers

Zane S. Averbach
Paul C. Bauducco
Sue M. Bendavid
David B. Bobrosky
Tal Grinblat
Stephen T. Holzer
Jeffrey A. Kobulnick
Barry Kurtz
Kira S. Masteller
Vanessa Soto Nellis
Mark J. Phillips
Andrew L. Shapiro
Lynn Soodik
Keith T. Zimmet

Super Lawyers

2026 Southern California Rising Stars

Cindy J. Cardoza
Caitlyn Dillon
Nicholas J. Vitale

Los Angeles Business Journal, Inside the Valley

Leaders to Know: Trusted Advisors 2026
Barry Kurtz, selected

World Trademark Review

WTR 1000 – The World's Leading Trademark Professionals 2026
Jeffrey A. Kobulnick, selected

Daily Journal

Court of appeal restricts suits involving tortious interference with inheritance
Mark J. Phillips, co-author