



LEWITT | HACKMAN
SHAPIRO | MARSHALL | HARLAN
A LAW CORPORATION

16633 Ventura Boulevard, 11th Floor
Encino, California 91436-1865

818.990.2120
lewitthackman.com

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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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Keith T. Zimmet represented our client in the sale of its commercial real estate company. Due to unique circumstances, the transaction was structured as a stock sale, resulting in more favorable tax treatment for our client.

John B. Marshall, Thomas M. Morrow, Heidi A. Nurinda, and Paul C. Bauducco brought a successful ex parte application to advance the hearing on a motion to consolidate two cases for trial, increasing the chances that the motion will be granted in favor of our client.

Katherine L. Wallman and Tal Grinblat (both Certified Specialists in Franchise and Distribution Law) worked with a restaurant franchisor to resolve a dispute with a franchisee in Northern California. The agreement ended a long-running disagreement without the parties having to resort to litigation. In a separate matter, Tal consulted with a franchisor on an agreement with a virtual restaurant operator, including steps to protect the client from franchise violation law claims by that operator.

Steven L. Feldman completed a long term lease and construction agreement for a build-to-suit facility at a newly opened industrial park. Steve handled weeks of negotiations and complex details to shepherd the finalization of the agreement, now fully executed by the landlord and tenant.

Sue M. Bendavid and Joshua S. Stein represented a client in a harassment and wrongful termination suit. After taking the plaintiff's deposition, Sue and Josh demonstrated to opposing counsel that his client's claims were entirely lacking in merit and that if plaintiff continued with her claims, our client would be seeking to recover its fees against plaintiff for filing a frivolous lawsuit. The lawyer then called to state he was getting out of the case.

Tal Grinblat represented a client in the entertainment industry in applying to register its mark in seven countries. Each application covered 12 classes of products and services. The client's television show is shown around the world. Tal and the client targeted protections of our client's primary mark in those countries most important to its continued business.

Andrew L. Shapiro represented a client bitten on her right hand by a pit bull owned by a tenant in her apartment building. The parties disputed how the attack occurred, and the dog owners had limited renter's insurance. Andy made a claim against the building owner for negligently allowing a dangerous dog breed to be on the premises. After extensive litigation and mediation, Andy successfully settled the matter for seven figures shortly before trial.

Kira S. Masteller and **Olivia Li** represent a client who serves as both the trustee of a trust, as well as the administrator of a probate estate, for a deceased family member. The decedent's heirs live in Austria and did not wish to inherit. Kira and Olivia utilized the disclaimer technique to allow the assets to pass to heirs in the U.S., without tax consequences.

Matthew J. Soroky (Certified Specialist in Franchise & Distribution Law) represented a franchisor in negotiating a settlement with a junior trademark user to stop using the franchisor's trademark.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Family Law Specialist) worked with a private judge to resolve a dissolution matter that had been pending for two years. Each side claimed the other improperly took community funds. Prior to mediation, Vanessa and opposing counsel met with the parties to resolve the larger issues, and the private judge helped resolve the more contentious matters.

Tal Grinblat worked with a client in the jewelry business to record a change of ownership for its marks across its trademark portfolio, including trademarks registered in the United States, Canada and the World Intellectual Property Office. In a separate matter, Tal represented a client based in Belgium in responding to and overcoming two refusals to its marks issued by the U.S. Trademark Office—the Trademark Office approved both applications for publication.

Sue M. Bendavid prepared and submitted a detailed response to the State of California on behalf of a private school client. The school was charged with a variety of claims in connection with the disenrollment of a student. After reviewing the substantive response, the State closed the case and found there was no violation.

David B. Bobrosky represented a hospital worker who bit into a donut containing foreign objects, which induced choking. Our client suffered damage to his vocal chords, but worker's compensation doctors could not diagnose the specific problem. David referred the client to specialists who identified and treated the problem. Through expert testimony, David proved the donut shop's negligent handling and baking process resulted in the donut's contamination. The case settled for a large six figure sum shortly before trial.

Tal Grinblat advised a client in the travel industry on steps to comply with California Senate Bill 478, which went into effect on July 1st. The new law aims to eliminate so-called "drip pricing" and "junk fees," the practice of advertising or offering a price that does not include all mandatory fees charged by the seller. Separately, Tal worked with the client to negotiate agreements with various suppliers and cruise companies.

Kira S. Masteller set up five Limited Liability Companies for a client with numerous rental properties to hold rental properties for business tax benefit purposes and to protect our client personally from liability related to business properties.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** provided training for employers regarding their responsibilities under California's Senate Bill 553, the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan law. Almost all California employers must have a plan in place, as of July 1st. Additionally, Sue, Tal and **Aspen Ferber-Paxson** worked with our clients to develop plans and then train their own employees. The bill requires monitoring of potential threat hazards, ongoing employee input, re-training when the plan changes, and strict record-keeping.

Publications & Media Mentions

Los Angeles Daily Journal

PAGA at 20: New legislation could reduce litigation

Tal Burnovski Yeyni, author

Franchise Law Journal

LADR Case Notes and FLJ Currents

Matthew J. Soroky, co-author

Los Angeles Business Journal

2024 Top 100 Lawyers

David B. Bobrosky selected

Los Angeles Business Journal - Inside the Valley

2024 Trusted Advisors

Barry Kurtz selected

FranchiseTimes

2024 Legal Eagles

Tal Grinblat selected

Los Angeles Business Journal - Inside the Valley

Labor & Employment - A

Roundtable Discussion

Sue M. Bendavid, participant

World Trademark Review

WTR 1000 - World's Leading

Trademark Professionals

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick selected

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