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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 our nine attorneys selected to the *Best Lawyers in America* and *Ones to Watch* lists for 2025, by *Best Lawyers Magazine*: **Sue M. Bendavid** named in Employment Law Management, as well as Labor and Employment Litigation; **Michael Hackman** in Tax Law; **Jeffrey A. Kobulnick** in Intellectual Property Litigation, as well as Trademark Law; **Barry Kurtz** in Franchise Law; **Kira S. Masteller** in Trusts & Estates; **Vanessa Soto Nellis** in Family Law; **Andrew L. Shapiro** in Personal Injury Litigation; **Lynn Soodik** in Family Law; and **Jessica W. Rosen** in *Ones to Watch* in Labor and Employment Law Management.

We are also pleased to announce that **Barry Kurtz** has been named a *2024 Legal Visionary* by the *Los Angeles Times Business to Business Publishing* supplement: *Consumer Attorneys of Southern California*.

Jessica W. Rosen represented our client in several corporate litigation matters including: disputes among business partners, intellectual property claims, and legal compliance in franchise relationships. After a marathon mediation that lasted nearly 24 hours, Jessica reached a global settlement favorable to our client, including securing amendments to existing agreements, and settling all matters for significantly less than demanded by the opposing parties.

Kevin E. Rex and **John B. Marshall** represent a hospital in evaluating various offers from others seeking to acquire the facility and its ancillary services. Kevin strategizes and works with management and the client's advisors on the corporate and business issues, while John advises the client regarding health care issues associated with this multi-million dollar matter.

Kira S. Masteller is amending two supplemental needs trusts for a client who has disabled family members who receive public benefits. The trusts have provisions that allow for trustee changes, as well as changes related to revisions in the law. Going forward the trusts will continue to allow the beneficiaries to receive funds to supplement their public assistance without disqualifying them from Medi-Cal and other benefits.

Andrew L. Shapiro won a seven figure settlement for a flying enthusiast who suffered severe losses in his enjoyment of life after a bicycle accident. Our client sustained rib fractures and other physical injuries when struck by a vehicle. Though he healed physically, he was unable to continue flying as a hobby. The motorist who struck our client carried minimum liability insurance, but Andy pursued underinsured motorist coverage to obtain the bulk of the settlement for our client. The case shows how important it is to protect yourself with substantial uninsured or underinsured liability coverage.

Jessica W. Rosen petitioned the California Second District Court of Appeal for writ relief after the trial court improperly denied our client's peremptory challenge under California's Code of Civil Procedure. While 90-95 percent of such petitions are summarily denied without explanation, the panel issued an order to show cause, having determined our client may be entitled to relief. Jessica also has appeals pending in state and federal appellate courts and will present oral argument when scheduled.

Matthew J. Soroky, Barry Kurtz (both Certified Specialists in Franchise & Distribution Law), and **Thomas M. Morrow** represented small business owners in pre-litigation negotiations to separate from their franchisor over a pricing dispute. Matt and Tom prepared the default notices and correspondence that brought the matter to a satisfying resolution for our clients.

Kevin E. Rex worked with a client to acquire a company that manufactured some of our client's products. Negotiations encompassed several years, but the acquisition ultimately permits our client to own and control its supply chains, formulas and products. Kevin is working with the client to transition and grow the newly acquired manufacturing company.

Jeffrey A. Kobulnick successfully negotiated a consent agreement in support of a client's application to register its trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Barry Kurtz and **Katherine L. Wallman** (both Franchise & Distribution Law Specialists) represented a restaurant franchisor in the sale of the stock of his franchise company to a long-term employee. In a separate matter, Barry & Kate are renewing franchise documents for an internationally-recognized retailer client.

Vanessa Soto Nellis (Certified Family Law Specialist) worked with a client in obtaining marriage dissolutions on two continents. Our client needed a mediated divorce settlement to terminate a civil union in the United Kingdom, as well as here in California.

Steven L. Feldman and **Barry Kurtz** represent a landlord/concessionaire in leasing his property in a state park system. The potential tenant is a restaurant operator who will operate as a sub-concessionaire.

Kira S. Masteller prepared an estate plan for clients using Protective Trusts for their adult children to receive their inheritances, since the beneficiaries could be sued because of their professions. The Protective Trusts provide the benefit of continuing Federal Estate Tax exemptions for their grandchildren, but also protect the inherited assets in each trust from each beneficiary's creditors, should they ever be sued.

Barry Kurtz is working with a client negotiating the purchase of pizza franchises in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Columbia. In a separate matter, Barry and **Caitlyn Dillon** reviewed Franchise Disclosure Documents for clients considering the purchase of a cookie franchise and an office maintenance franchise.

Matthew J. Soroky is reviewing and consulting with clients on renewal of a franchise agreement for a waxing salon. In separate matters, Barry Kurtz and Matt are consulting with clients on renewals of franchise agreements in the business brokerage and real estate sectors.

Sue M. Bendavid and **Tal Burnovski Yeyni** hosted a client webinar regarding the Private Attorneys General Act. Recently signed amendments to the law may make it easier for employers to cure alleged PAGA violations.

Publications & Media Mentions

Los Angeles Daily Journal

PAGA at 20: New legislation could reduce litigation

Tal Burnovski Yeyni, author

Letter from Los Angeles

Trial of Casey Anthony, Parts 1 & 2

Mark J. Phillips, co-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 Daily Journal

Supreme Court clarifies rules of modification of revocable trusts

Mark J. Phillips, co-author

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