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is more government  
regulation of the U.S.  
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☐ Yes

☐ No

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Posted date: 3/3/2008

## Legal Briefs

### Recent happenings in the legal arena

#### Seminar Speaker

Stacey Miller of Tharpe & Howell, Sherman Oaks, spoke at the Residential Landlord-Tenant Law Seminar in Pasadena, on Feb. 28, hosted by Sterling Educational Services. Miller's presentation concerned the respective obligations of both landlords and tenants, and the judicial eviction process. Miller is a Partner I and focuses her practice on all phases of civil litigation in both federal and state courts, including arbitration, mediation and trial.

#### An Appealing 50 Years

Ellis J. Horvitz, founder of the Encino firm Horvitz & Levy, celebrated 50 years in the business at the end of last year. In 1957, Horvitz started a civil appellate practice, the same year that Sputnik was launched and "The Cat in the Hat" was published. The firm has 33 attorneys specializing exclusively in civil appeals and the firm touts that it appears more frequently in civil cases in the California appellate courts than any other firm in California. Since 1990 Horvitz & Levy has participated in more than 90 cases before the California Supreme Court.

#### Bad Faith

William A. Daniels of Schwartz, Daniel & Bradley in Newbury Park, will moderate a one-day seminar covering Insurance Bad Faith Claims in California on April 25 at the Sheraton Downtown Los Angeles.

The event is designed for attorneys and other legal professionals, claims managers, risk managers and other insurance professionals. Presented by Lorman Education Services, the seminar will present strategies for constructing a bad-faith case. Topics will include "Punitive Damages - Issues and Arguments," "Unique Issues in HMO Litigation," "The Duty to Defend" and "Effective Selection and Use of the Expert Witness," among others. For information, see [www.Lorman.com](http://www.Lorman.com)

#### New Litigators, Deal Maker

Musick, Peeler & Garrett in Westlake Village welcomed Donna Noushkam, Patty Matias and Ethan Watts. Noushkam and Matias come on board as litigators; Watts is a litigator and transactional attorney.

Corporate partner Brent Reinke, recently named a "2007 Deal Maker of the Year" by the Pacific Coast Business Journal, was recognized for his extensive activity in representing companies in merger and acquisition transactions and his active involvement in the region's business community. Only three professionals in the three county area (Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties) were selected for the recognition.

#### Workplace Issues on Tap

Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan in Encino is hosting two seminars focusing on workplace issues at their office. The first, on March 10 is titled "Supervisory Training on Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation." The second, on March 12, will address "Immigration: Generally and Its Impact on Employment and Family Law." The latter is free to attend. Both seminars are geared for executives, managers, human resources personnel and supervisors. For information visit [www.LewittHackman.com](http://www.LewittHackman.com)

#### New Associate

David A. Bernardoni recently joined Kulik, Gottesman, Mouton & Siegel as an associate. He will specialize in civil litigation. He has represented a diverse range of clients, including large and small businesses in the communications, construction, entertainment, insurance and retail industries. Prior to joining KGM&S, Bernardoni was associated with

## CURRENT EDITION

Nov. 10-23, 2008



### Grobstein to Join Chicago Firm Crowe Horwath

Top 10 accounting firm, Crowe Horwath, LLP, headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., is joining forces with local cousin Grobstein, Horwath

### Vietnam-Valley Trade Partnership Possible

A local businessman promotes Vietnam as Valley trading partner

### Staying in the Fast Lane

Staying in the Fast Lane - 50 Fastest Growing Private Companies

Table of Contents:  
this week's business  
news stories

WEEKLY EDITION

This Issue's Audiocast

Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley.

#### **Speaking Out and About**

William C. Staley, Woodland Hills, speaks frequently on tax and business law subjects. Last month he addressed the Los Angeles Chapter of the California Society of CPAs on the topic of "Don't Treat 'S' Corporation Distributions Like Partnership Draws." In April he will speak at the American Association of Attorney-CPAs in West Los Angeles on "Disregarded Entities: Single-Member LLCs and Qualified Subchapter S Subsidiaries (QSubs)."

#### **Holidays With Habitat**

The employees of Ezra, Brutzkus & Gubner of Woodland Hills spent part of their holidays with Habitat For Humanity. EBG partners and staff rolled up their sleeves and spent the day painting and building at a Habitat for Humanity site in Pacoima.

"I walked away at the end of the day with the good feeling of sharing our good fortune with those in our community that need assistance," said partner Bob Ezra in a statement. Habitat for Humanity is based on volunteer labor and materials with the efforts of the future homeowner to provide a path toward home ownership and out of poverty.

#### **Radio Guests**

Clifford Pearson and Bruce Simon of Encino-based Pearson, Simon, Soter, Warshaw & Penny, were guests on the "Champions of Justice" radio program on KRLA 870 AM, hosted by attorney Thomas Girardi, late last year. Pearson and Simon were selected to discuss their experience and insight into antitrust laws.

#### **Treasurer Twice**

Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt of Universal City announced that partner Linda Miller Savitt is serving as the 2008 treasurer for the Los Angeles chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. She has been named secretary-treasurer for the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, where Savitt will chair the executive committee chair. She is slated to become president of that organization in 2011.

#### **Event Sponsor**

Jackson DeMarco Tidus Petersen & Peckenpaugh served as host sponsor of the First American Title 2008 Real Estate and Economic Outlook Ventura County conference on Feb. 7 at the Hyatt Westlake Village. The conference, now in its 11th year, includes a comprehensive review of the California and Ventura County economies and trends shaping the near-term real estate and economic outlook.

Ralph E. "Skip" Balfour has joined Jackson DeMarco Tidus Petersen & Peckenpaugh as a senior counsel at the firm. Balfour, an experienced business and real estate transactional lawyer, has been involved in the formation, operation, financing, structuring, sale and acquisition of business entities of all sizes, and in the purchase and sale of commercial real estate properties. Balfour was a founding partner of the Orange County firm of Balfour McDonald & Olmstead.

#### **Two Firms Included With Best**

Two local law firms were included in the 2008 national list of Best Lawyers.

Best Lawyers compiles lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers.

Ken Ballard, Richard Rosenberg, John Golper and Linda Miller Savitt – all partners at Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt in Universal City – were named for their contributions to the field of labor and employment law.

The Maher Law Firm of Woodland Hills, formerly Maher, Guiley & Maher, was cited for work in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death. The Best Lawyers in America, which includes 29,575 attorneys in 78 specialties, covers all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The current edition of The Best Lawyers in America is based on more than two million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.