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Tuesday, October 8, 2013
Burbank Airport Marriott
Holding Down the Tort
Moderated by Coby King
High Point Strategies, LLC
- Caryn Brotman Sanders, Tharpe & Howell LLP / San Fernando Valley Bar Association
- California State Assemblymember Mike Gatto (D-Burbank)
- Lisa Maki, Law Offices of Lisa L. Maki / Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles
- Kimberly Stone, Civil Justice Association of California

With a strong focus on medical malpractice, the panelists agreed that illegitimate lawsuits are creating the majority of the tort-related problems for businesses, patients, customers, and court system. Panelists also discussed reforming class action suits, ADA suits and Prop 65 suits.

The Nanny State
Moderated by Johnnie Perkins
Republic Services, Inc
- Jon Coupal, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- Richard Holober, Consumer Federation of California
- John Kabateck, National Federation of Independent Business

Two results of California’s regulatory policies is that businesses are moving out of state and business is going underground -- mostly due to taxes, panelists claimed. Much of the discussion revolved around Prop 13 and the pros and cons of a split-roll proposal, which would change how commercial property is taxed.

Switching Gears
Moderated by John Bunzel
Morgan Stanley
- Susan Castillo, Project Lead the Way
- Joe Klocko, Center for Applied and Competitive Technologies at College of the Canyon
- Ilse Metchek, California Fashion Association
- Robert Sanger, California Manufacturing and Technology Association

Panelists determined that improved manufacturing training requires a paradigm shift so that students, educators and workers see the job type differently. Additionally, the panelists touched on reforming the eight-hour work day and workers’ compensation.

Building Momentum
Moderated by Brad Cox
Trammel Crow Company
- Natalie Bazarevitch, CBRE Group
- Lawrence Bailey, JPMorgan Chase
- Steve Johnson, Metrostudy, a Hanley Wood Company
- Kirk Lesh, Center for Economic Research and Forecasting, California Lutheran University

Real estate and development is a crucial element to a local recovery, and public-private investments and cutting red tape for developers will help speed up the recovery, panelists concluded. Particularly, the Valley has very low inventory for industrial space.

Stayin’ Alive
Moderated by Alan Katz
SeeChange Health
- Karen Kirkpatrick, Infinisource
- Chris Patton, Covered California Small Business Health Options Program
- Haley Wiener, L/B/W Insurance and Insurance Services
- Mark Wilbur, Employers Group

Technology will play a key role in implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or “Obamacare,” panelists said. With the state exchanges now open, the group discussed how it is more important than ever to communicate with your insurance carriers and with your full-time employees who will have questions about their coverage.

The Big Swell
Moderated by Fiona Hutton
Fiona Hutton & Associates
- Jeff Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Jerry Meral, California Natural Resources Agency
- David Pettijohn, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Bruce Reznick, Planning and Conservation League

Wish You Were Here
Moderated by Sam Garrison
Caruso Affiliated
- Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge
- Luther Lowe, Yelp Inc.
- Thomas See, Universal Studios Hollywood
- Ernest Wooden, Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board

The Bay Area Delta affects the state, the Southern California region and the SFV, panelists said. Participants focused on the funding and environmental factors involved in preventing a water shortage that would take years and billions of dollars to recover from.

Cruisin’ in Neutral
Moderated by Jeff McConnell
Englander, Knabe & Allen
- Linda Bohlinger, HNTB Corporation
- Art Leahy, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Martin Wachs, UCLA and RAND Corporation

With federal, state and local revenues dropping, public-private partnerships will be the key to improving traffic and congestion in the San Fernando Valley, panelists said. Additionally, the group discussed how to spend transit funds more efficiently to ensure proper design and implementation the first time for larger-scale projects.