

# THE RECORDER

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## Firm freebie goes online

How often is it possible to get a freebie from a law firm? Not very.

But for 17 years, Encino's Horvitz & Levy, one of California's most respected appellate firms, has provided clients, co-counsel, reporters — and anyone else who's interested — its "Annual Review" of developments in the California and federal courts. For free!

Sent by regular mail in large, bound volumes for most of that time and via CD-ROMs the last two years, the review — which summarizes about 35 cases and some new appellate rules this year — went out for the first time by e-mail last week.

"That allows people to pass it along more easily, and it gets more disseminated that way," partner Curt Cutting, who has pulled the review together for the last decade, said Friday.

Each area of law, whether it's anti-SLAPP

litigation, intellectual property, federal civil procedure or nine other specialties, is prepared by Horvitz & Levy attorneys who specialize in that field. There are also summaries in the areas of arbitration, employment, insurance, premises liability, *Privette* doctrine, toxic torts, state civil procedure and unfair competition/consumer actions.

"It's a collaborative effort, for sure," said Cutting, who writes the punitive damages section. Among the case highlights he chose from 2007 were *Philip Morris USA v. Williams*, 05-1256, a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that said juries must be instructed not to punish a defendant for conduct directed toward non-parties; and *Baker v. Exxon Mobil Corp.*, 490 F.3d 1066, in which the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals approved a \$2.5 billion punitive award.

"I think it's helpful to the clients who have

regular litigation in these areas," Cutting said, "and I hope it's also helpful to a lot of the trial lawyers we work with."

Before the advent of e-mail or CD-ROMs, Cutting said, getting the Annual Review out wasn't always easy. Hard copies containing about 150 pages of information would be mailed out to about 1,500 people in big, thick binders.

CD-ROMs were better, he said, but didn't provide the ease of opening the review up and flipping through it. Only 600 e-mails were sent out this year, Cutting said, because the firm didn't have e-mail addresses for everyone. Instead, a letter was mailed telling them the Annual Review was ready online at [www.horvitzlevy.com](http://www.horvitzlevy.com), under "Publications."

— Mike McKee