



OC All Over— From Wayne’s World to Ebell

Put **Wayne Gross** at the head of the line on a recent trend that has OCers popping up in all sorts of prominent places. The affably intense trial lawyer is leading **Greenberg Gross** in its representation of **Investel Capital Corp.** in a lawsuit against **Snap Inc.**, which last week filed for an IPO that’s expected to raise around \$3 billion and pegs its value at more than \$20 billion. The suit aims for the invalidation of a patent at the core of Snap’s business. Investel refers to one of its founders, **Reggie Brown**, as an “ousted co-founder” of



Snap. The photo-sharing outfit appears to have noted \$157.5 million it paid to Brown to settle

prior claims over the rights to intellectual property in a separate case, although it didn’t refer to him by name. That revelation came in Snap’s S1 filing, and Investel contends it “shows that the company has a pattern of grabbing intellectual property that it does not own or have the right to use.” No word on what sort of damages might be sought ... **John Hueston** of **Hueston Hennenigan** has plenty in common with Gross, his longtime pal and former colleague at the **U.S. Department of Justice**. Both took a turn running the U.S. Attorney’s office in OC, went on to big firms in private practice, subsequently formed their own firms, and have led the **OC Bar Association**. And now both have big cases in the digital world, with Hueston representing **Amazon.com** on a challenge to a recently passed state law that prohibits the company’s **IMDb Pro** talent-matching website from listing the ages of actors without their consent. Amazon contends that’s a chill on the First Amendment ... OC in NYC: The **Pacific Symphony** and **Pacific Chorale** aren’t the only musical troupes with an eye on **Carnegie Hall**, where they’re already booked for April 2018. The resident professionals of **UCI’s Clare Trevor School of the Arts** will take the stage there as **Trio Celeste** this April ... Expect former UCI administrator and **Barclay Theatre** boss **Jerry Mandel** to catch the trio’s show—the jazz band he leads has gigs lined up around the Big Apple at about the same time ... **PBS SoCal’s Maria Hall Brown** will beat the musicians to the punch—her recent documentary on **Henry Segerstrom** will be shown at the **Directors Guild of America’s** center in Manhattan on March 20, with a reception to follow at—you guessed it—Carnegie Hall ... OC on the Concourses: That’s where you might find a couple of other Segerstroms, as you’ll see in a front-page story about some cool classic cars ... OC in the salon: Put **Chapman U.** there after it was credited as a source for the **Harper’s Index** in the most recent issue of the magazine—a favorite of the literary set ... OC in D.C.: Thanks to **Loreen Gilbert**, president of **WealthWise Financial Services** in Irvine, who was appointed to one of 19 seats—and the only one representing California—on the **Trump Pence Small Business Advisory Council** ... *Sullivan says:* **Dang Tran** hasn’t played Carnegie Hall, but she’s a genuine crowd pleaser when she tickles the ivories for **Santa Ana Kiwanis Club** meetings at the **Ebell Club** on French Street.

Lawsuit Targets Kushner, Spitz on Freedom BK

MEDIA: Unsecured creditors include federal pension agency

By DEIRDRE NEWMAN

A court-sanctioned committee of unsecured creditors of **Freedom Communications Inc.**—the former owner of the **Orange County Register**—have filed a lawsuit against former Freedom executives **Aaron Kushner** and **Eric Spitz** in the Santa Ana division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The plaintiff’s committee includes a number of unpaid vendors and the **Pension**



Kushner, Spitz: ended brief run in media with company facing \$190 million in pension claims

Benefit Guaranty Corp., a federal safety net for retirement savings.

The lawsuit alleges that Kushner and Spitz, as trustees of the company’s retire-

ment plan, “wasted millions of dollars of Freedom’s pension plan assets on two unsuccessful life insurance investments: a direct life insurance program and a life insurance settlement.”

The suit is a follow-up to a filing last September by the Los Angeles office of **Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP**—which was the lead negotiator for creditors during the bankruptcy hearings, and represents the plaintiffs in the current lawsuit—to inform the court that it would investigate possible legal claims against former Freedom insiders.

Freedom declared bankruptcy in Novem-

► *Freedom 21*

New Brea Industrial Site Lands Car Parts Wholesaler

REAL ESTATE: 240,000-SF lease fills project on Imperial

By MARK MUELLER

An importer and distributor of automotive parts with headquarters in the Bay Area is moving its Southern California regional distribution center from Torrance to a newly built facility in Brea.

Newark-based **WorldPac Inc.** recently signed a 240,000-square-foot lease at the Imperial Distribution Center in one of the largest industrial deals signed in Orange County over the past few months.

The facility, at 1225 W. Imperial Blvd., totals 367,194 square feet and opened last year. WorldPac’s lease fills the development



1225 W. Imperial: WorldPac to shift Southern California distribution center from Torrance, more than double its space

between Long Beach-based **Pacific Industrial** and **Clarion Partners LLC**, a New York-based real estate investment manager.

The deal takes one of the few remaining big new blocks of industrial development in

► *WorldPac 47*

Alphaeon Plans to Give Back HQ Space

REAL ESTATE: Shrinkage continues, Lensar to lender

By MARK MUELLER

Alphaeon Corp. plans to switch out its glitzy headquarters in Irvine this year for a much smaller location in the area in the latest sign of shrinkage for the lifestyle healthcare company.

Privately held Alphaeon recently reached a deal with the owner of the Lakeshore Towers office complex near **John Wayne Airport** to give back its space at its headquarters there.

Alphaeon had been leasing space on two floors of the five-story office, which is at 18191 Von Karman Ave. and overlooks the San Diego (405) Freeway.

The company signed its initial lease for the building in 2014 and currently has its name on top of the office. It leases nearly 53,000 square feet there, according to brokerage data.

Brokers with the Irvine office of **Hughes Marino** in recent months had been marketing all of Alphaeon’s space for sublease in a deal running through mid-2021.

Marketing materials for the space noted that more than \$4.5 million had been invested

► *Alphaeon 49*



CEO Simhambhatla: plans to continue building out credit division and online store



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