



This FANmail is brought to you by: David Graham

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-- David Graham, CEO of Code Ninjas

Major Win on Joint Employer

Last week, we had a major win for the franchise community. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is considering rulemaking to address the standard for determining joint employer status under the National Labor Relations Act. Noting that the current joint employer standard “undermines employers’ willingness to create jobs and expand business opportunities,” NLRB Chairman John Ring announced the board has begun the internal process required for rulemaking and he hopes it would bring resolution to this matter “as soon as possible.”

In a [statement](#), Matt Haller, IFA's Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs, said the NLRB’s move is an “acknowledgement the Trump administration recognizes the importance of providing clear rules to employers in the long term.” Furthermore, he added that IFA continues to “primarily advocate for the Save Local Business Act in Congress as the best way to address the full scope of the joint employer uncertainty facing franchise businesses.”

Read more [here](#).

Code Ninjas CEO Testifies Before House Committee on Small Business



On Wednesday, the U.S House Committee on Small Business held a hearing that examined how small business owners have used intellectual property protections to help their businesses and identify issues when navigating IP processes. The panel included Code Ninjas CEO David Graham, who testified on behalf of IFA on the importance of intellectual property protections for small businesses.

“Because franchisees are individual owners, ensuring brand protection is key to ensuring the customer’s experience with the brand is of a consistent quality,” said Graham, who is also founder of the Pearland, Texas-based company. “The only way to

give legal effect to brand protection is through intellectual property protection, specifically trademarks, service marks, trade dress, patents, copyrights, and trade secrets," he added. "Significantly, the use of these protections by franchises has had a net-positive effective on the U.S. economy, helping to fuel the economy and spur growth both at home and overseas."

Watch the full hearing [here](#).

SBA's Linda McMahon to Speak at International Franchise Expo



Join thousands of entrepreneurs and future business owners at the International Franchise Expo. The expo will begin on May 31 as we welcome Administrator Linda McMahon of the U.S. Small Business Administration, a member of President Trump's Cabinet. Learn how the SBA helps entrepreneurs start, grow and succeed in businesses through funding, counseling and mentoring opportunities.

Register [here](#).

Save the Date: FAN Annual Meeting 2018 Starts Sept. 4



The Franchise Action Network Annual Meeting is our IFA Washington, D.C. fly-in that gives you the opportunity to meet with your representatives in Congress to discuss topics that can affect your business. You will get the chance to team up with other IFA members from your state to discuss the positive influence of the franchise community and create a relationship with your lawmakers -- which can have a lasting impact on your business.

Read more [here](#) about what happened at last year's event in the October 2017 *Franchising World* magazine.

WHEN: Sept. 4-7, 2018

WHERE: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

Register [here](#) now.

Franchise Action Broadcast Presents: Rep. Karen Handel (R-Ga.)

In our newest installment of Franchise Action Broadcast, we interview Georgia Representative, Karen Handel. Click on the image below to watch the interview.

In 2017, IFA launched Franchise Action Broadcast (FAB), a fun and interactive project created around the idea of making it easier for constituents to approach their members of Congress. These non-policy interviews feature members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, where they discuss their favorite hobbies, foods and fun-facts about their tenure in office.



Cresanti Talks Apprenticeships with Secretary Acosta, Ivanka Trump



IFA President and CEO Robert Cresanti, CFE, sat down in the West Wing for a working lunch with Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, and a small group of other trade association and corporate CEOs to discuss apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities across the private sector.

[Read the full story.](#)

IFA Legal Symposium 2018 Recap



Last week, during IFA's Legal Symposium, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) received the *Dennis Weiczorek Free Enterprise Award* for his contributions to the franchise industry. The Senator also addressed the attendees regarding the current state of play surrounding H.R. 3441, the Save Local Business Act, which would return the joint employer standard to its historical and legal norm. Praising IFA's ongoing efforts to pass the legislation, he also expressed optimism for possible regulatory actions. Championing the economic opportunities franchising provides, Senator Alexander called joint employer "a direct assault on the route to the middle-class."

Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-Fl.), also addressed the symposium, speaking of the bipartisanship required to solve problems facing Americans. After meeting with franchise owners in her district, Rep. Murphy voted in favor of the Save Local Business Act in the House last Fall.



Taco John's Franchise Owner Tamra Kennedy Features on Fox Business Network's *Varney and Co.*



Taco John's multi-unit franchise owner, Tamra Kennedy, appeared in an exclusive interview on *Varney and Co* discussing the shortage of teen workers at fast-food restaurants. According to the U.S. Labor Department, almost 60% of teens had a job in 1979 compared to 34 percent in 2015. Kennedy notes the reason for the limited supply of teen workers is due to lack of transportation, and reluctance to obtain a driver's license.

Watch the full interview [here](#).

In the News

[Funny Business at the Trump Labor Board](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
[Is Burgerville Union Success a Bellwether for Fast Food?](#), *Bloomberg*
[Regulate With Prejudice? Joint Employer Issue Tests Board Process](#), *Bloomberg*
[NLRB to issue formal rule on controversial 'joint employer' policy](#), *Washington Examiner*
[Top Republican Talks Successes and Challenges With Franchises](#), *Inside Sources*
[Class Actions Now Flowing From FTC and DOJ's No-Poach Enforcement](#), *Legal Intelligencer*

Tweets of the Week:

[Americans for Tax Reform and the Center for Worker Freedom support the NLRB's decision to consider rulemaking to clarify the joint-employer standard.](#)
[@WorkerFreedom](#) [@taxreformer](#) [@NLRB](#)

[SBE Council President and CEO @KarenKerrigan: It's time to end the confusion and harm to small businesses that is being caused by the lack of a clear and practical joint employer standard.](#) [@SBECouncil](#)

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Featured FAN: David Graham



David is the CEO of Code Ninjas, the fastest growing and largest kids coding franchise in the United States. At Code Ninja centers, kids learn to code using video game-based curriculum in a fun, safe, and inspiring learning environment. In March of 2017, David started franchising to expand the brand and has now grown to more than 250 centers in more than 30 states.

After nearly twenty years as a professional software developer and entrepreneur, David founded Code Ninjas in 2016 because he believed that coding is not just a great career choice but also a valuable life skill.

Code Ninja's goal is to teach kids how to think and solve problems. This is done by engaging with the children at their level, on a topic that they enjoy and can stay engaged with over a four-year period: video game development. The students are called “ninjas” and the teachers are “Code Senseis” (which is a pending trademark). Ninjas and Code Senseis work inside of the “dojo” to create games from the kids’ imaginations as well as fix problems that they present to them to teach a particular topic.

Franchising Facts - Did You Know?

The youngest state lawmaker in the U.S. is Saira Blair, who was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 2014 at the age of 18. To celebrate, she and her supporters celebrated at Buffalo Wild Wings.

