

U.S. CITIZEN GOES FREE AFTER LENGTHY DETENTION BY INS
Snell & Wilmer attorneys provide pro bono service in U.S. District Court

TUCSON, AZ (June 8, 2009) — After nearly three years' detention by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Andres José Cerón-Echeverry is free to rejoin his family, thanks to two attorneys in Snell & Wilmer's Tucson office. The pair represented him pro bono as part of the firm's longstanding commitment to work with the courts on behalf of qualified individuals who cannot afford legal representation.

Cerón, who was born in Colombia, but obtained U.S. citizenship when his mother was naturalized before he reached majority, was detained and threatened with deportation in August 2006. Unable to provide proof that he is, indeed, a citizen, he was incarcerated and had exhausted all legal remedies available to him when Melissa Marcus and Joseph A. Kroeger agreed to represent him before the United States District Court for the District of Arizona.

The duo's energetic approach and the strength of their legal arguments convinced the Government to release the defendant and to provide expedited assistance to him in obtaining proof of citizenship and other vital documents. A jubilant Cerón has rejoined his extended family in another state, where he intends to make his home.

Melissa Marcus, a cum laude graduate of the University of Arizona with a juris doctor degree from Baylor University School of Law, joined Snell & Wilmer in 2007. Her practice is concentrated in commercial litigation. Joe Kroeger, who came to the firm last year, is a graduate of Stanford Law School and a member of the State Bars of Arizona, California and Illinois. His practice is concentrated in labor and employment, advising and representing employers in matters including employment discrimination and harassment, wrongful discharge, breach of contract, misappropriation of trade secrets, non-competition/non-solicitation, alternative dispute resolution and arbitration agreements.

About Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 425 attorneys practicing in eight offices throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona, Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Los Cabos, Mexico; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Salt Lake City, Utah. The firm represents clients ranging from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals, and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit www.swlaw.com.