

DEBORAH S. MALLGRAVE OF SNELL & WILMER NAMED “ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR” BY THE PUBLIC LAW CENTER

Orange County Attorney Champions Immigration Law Cases at Public Law Center

COSTA MESA, Calif. (June 26, 2009) – Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Associate Deborah S. Mallgrave has been named “Attorney of the Year” by the Public Law Center (PLC) of Orange County. Mallgrave received the honor at the PLC’s 2009 “Volunteers for Justice” awards dinner on Mon., June 22, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine, Calif. Each year, the PLC recognizes the attorney that has made the most significant impact to the center’s pro bono clients. PLC is the county’s pro bono law firm committed to providing access to justice for low income residents.

Mallgrave is a member of Snell & Wilmer’s commercial and business litigation team in Orange County. She became involved with PLC in 2001 upon joining the firm, and has since devoted thousands of hours to PLC cases in the field of immigration law. Her initial work focused on pairing PLC clients with Snell & Wilmer attorneys for direct pro bono representation. Realizing there was much more that could be done, Mallgrave soon tapped the resources of the firm’s summer associates to assist with U visa cases. Certain immigrant victims of serious crime, who have cooperated in the investigation or prosecution of the crime against them, can gain legal status in the United States through the U visa process. Most associates can complete the work in about six weeks. However, the U visa process takes from 12 to 24 months to resolve. The summer associate program initiated by Mallgrave continues to be strongly supported by Snell & Wilmer, which currently has five associates overseeing pending U visa cases which the summer associates initiate.

"Deb's leadership has brought to our lawyers an even better appreciation of the rewards of representing those who need us the most, and can afford us least," said William O'Hare, administrative partner of Snell & Wilmer's Orange County office. "We applaud Deb and are grateful to PLC for recognizing her outstanding contributions."

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 Phoenix and Tucson, 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.

About the Public Law Center

The Public Law Center, Orange County’s pro bono law firm, is committed to providing access to justice for low income residents. Through volunteers and staff, the PLC has provides free civil legal services, including counseling, individual representation, community education and strategic litigation and advocacy to challenge societal injustices. Now in its 70th year of service, PLC works with more than 700 volunteer lawyers, paralegals and law students from throughout the county who volunteer their time and expertise. For more information, visit www.publiclawcenter.org.