

**BARBARA DAWSON NAMED 2009 ATHENA BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR  
BY THE GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**PHOENIX (October 22, 2009)** — Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. is pleased to announce that Partner Barbara Dawson has been named the 2009 ATHENA Businesswoman of the Year in the Private Sector by the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented as part of the Chamber's Annual ATHENA Award Luncheon held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa on October 21, 2009. The event marked the 22nd year the Chamber has honored Valley businesswomen with the ATHENA Award, named after the Greek goddess of courage and wisdom, and a program of ATHENA International, a foundation dedicated to creating leadership opportunities for women.

Dawson has been with Snell & Wilmer for 20 years. Her practice is concentrated on complex commercial litigation and internal investigations. Her specific areas of focus include financial institution matters, tax disputes, class actions and alternative dispute resolution.

In other ATHENA Award categories, Connie Phillips, the executive director of Sojourner Center, was named the Businesswoman of the Year in the Public Sector and Wendy Akbar, an associate at Quarles & Brady LLP, was recognized with the ATHENA Young Professional Award. Dawson, Phillips, and Akbar were chosen from among eleven other ATHENA finalists who were selected from a large group of nominations received in August.

"The ATHENA Awards recognize truly inspiring women who are active in our community, excel in their professions and take the time to reach out and mentor others. To hear their personal stories, you can't help but admire what they've accomplished as well as what they've done to inspire others," said Todd Sanders, president & CEO, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. "These women have showed outstanding leadership and are true role models for the community. The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce is honored to be able to recognize these leaders with the ATHENA Award."

**About Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.**

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 400 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](http://www.swlaw.com).