

**SNELL & WILMER EXPANDS WATER LAW PRACTICE  
WITH ADDITION OF WILLIAM STAUDENMAIER AND MICHAEL KAFKA**

**PHOENIX (January 4, 2010)** — Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. announces that William Staudenmaier and Michael Kafka have joined the firm, as partner and counsel respectively, in its Real Estate, Environmental, Energy & Finance Practice Group. With these additions, the firm expands upon its existing Water Law practice.

“The complexities surrounding the ownership, control, and use of water will continue to grow over the coming decades,” said John J. Bouma, Chairman of Snell & Wilmer. “At Snell & Wilmer, we are always looking for opportunities to further develop our ability to address our clients’ specific needs. Bill and Mike possess unique backgrounds and experience in water law that will compliment our existing strengths across this practice area and will enable them to make immediate contributions to our firm’s success. We are pleased to have them both on board.”

Staudenmaier’s water law practice involves representation of clients in general stream adjudications, participation in negotiations for settlement of Indian water right claims, negotiation of contracts and leases for transfer of water rights, seeking permits and approvals from state and federal regulatory agencies, and drafting, negotiating and lobbying for state and federal water resources legislation. He also represents private and public entities in transactions to secure water supplies, including negotiation of long-term contracts for effluent used at major industrial facilities, and contracts to acquire water rights for municipal and private development purposes. Staudenmaier also has an extensive environmental practice that includes compliance counseling regarding state and federal hazardous and solid waste laws, and due diligence counseling on environmental issues associated with real estate transactions.

Staudenmaier earned his B.S., *with distinction*, from the University of Wisconsin, and his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. Earlier in his career, he was a Senior Attorney for Arizona Public Service Company and Deputy Counsel for the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Kafka’s water practice focuses on representing public and private entities in transactions to secure water supplies, including drafting and negotiating complex agreements to secure water resources for municipal and private development. He also helps clients identify, evaluate and manage their water rights and guides them through the administrative process of securing these rights by helping them seek necessary permits and certificates. Kafka also has extensive environmental law experience in the air quality arena and in governmental policy development. He has represented the electric utility industry and individual clients in multi-state rulemakings concerning the regulation of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and state implementation plan provisions to reduce regional haze in western states.

Kafka earned his B.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, his M.B.A in International Management, *with distinction*, from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and his J.D., *magna cum laude* (valedictorian), from William Mitchell College of Law.

“Water law is, by its very nature, a historically bound practice,” said Staudenmaier. “Snell & Wilmer established itself as a leader in water law issues during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century with the historic representation of the State of Arizona in *Arizona v. California*. One of the firm’s founders, Mark Wilmer, received a decision in the case that had an immeasurable impact on Arizona’s economic development and growth. Mike and I are excited about the unique opportunity to join the firm where that history was made and to further enhance its capabilities in this important area of the law.”

**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).