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Contact: Kasey Broach, Public Relations
kbroach@swlaw.com or 602.382.6019

JOHN O'BRIEN JOINS SNELL & WILMER'S DENVER OFFICE

DENVER (February 1, 2010) — Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., one of the largest full-service business law firms in the Western U.S., is pleased to announce that John O'Brien recently joined its team as a partner in the firm's Denver office. O'Brien will join Snell & Wilmer's Commercial Finance group. In his new role, O'Brien will lead efforts for the firm's banking and finance work in agriculture law and agriculture transactions.

O'Brien has more than 30 years of experience representing financial institutions nationally, many in the agricultural financing segment, as a part of his banking practice. His practice in Snell & Wilmer's Denver office will focus on bankruptcy and workout issues involving banks and other financial institutions, as well as the agriculture sector and high net-worth individuals.

"John is a very talented attorney with a proven track record of successfully assisting clients with complex financial matters," said Timothy G. O'Neill, Administrative Partner of Snell & Wilmer's Denver office. "In addition to his leadership in our Commercial Finance group, John's background and experience will play a significant role in helping Snell & Wilmer expand its work in the agriculture industry."

According to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado's diverse agricultural industry contributes significantly to the state's economy, generating economic activity in the range of \$20 billion annually. With the addition of O'Brien, who has closed more than \$1 billion in commercial transactions—primarily agricultural and agri-business—Snell & Wilmer has positioned itself as a leader for agricultural transactions in the Colorado region.

O'Brien received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Vermont with cum laude honors recognition. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1985. O'Brien began his career at Moye Giles, where he led its banking group, before joining the Denver-based law firm Kerr Brosseau Bartlett O'Brien, LLC.

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 Denver, Colorado; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Los Cabos, Mexico. The firm represents clients ranging from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit www.swlaw.com.