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## **SNELL & WILMER OBTAINS SETTLEMENT FOR CITY OF FRESNO**

**DENVER (October 20, 2010)** - Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. attorneys Lisa A. Decker, Jessica E. Yates and Jeffrey L. Willis recently obtained a favorable settlement for the City of Fresno, California in a case against the United States and The Boeing Company to recover past and future costs associated with the clean up of groundwater contamination caused by aircraft refurbishing activities of the U.S. and Boeing that began in the 1940s (WWII) at the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, in Fresno, California.

In the late 1980s, the State of California discovered solvent contamination in the soil and groundwater from the use of the airport grounds over the years by the U.S. and Boeing, and the parties began the investigation and clean up of the site and the nearly 2-mile long plume of groundwater contamination (TCE, PCE and TCP) extending beyond the airport property lines under the oversight of the State of California. However, as the landowner who had never conducted any contaminating activities, the City alleged that the U.S. and Boeing were not paying their fair share in the multi-million dollar cleanup. At the time of settlement, the costs of investigation and clean up activities totaled nearly \$18 million, with the City bearing approximately 25% of the cost. The future cleanup is projected to cost an additional \$10 to \$20 million.

The settlement requires the U.S. to pay the City \$1.15 million in cash, and pay another \$1.96 million to the State of California in settlement of all parties' past state oversight costs. Boeing will pay the City \$200,000 in cash. The settlement also places 90% of the total future costs for cleanup on the U.S. (68%) and Boeing (22%), with the City paying the remaining 10% share.

"We are pleased with the settlement since it ensures the continuation of funding through clean up and also caps the City's future responsibility to a 10% share," said Lisa Decker, Partner in Snell & Wilmer's Denver office. The settlement puts an end to the four-year federal court lawsuit.

### **About Snell & Wilmer**

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 a diverse range of clients, from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [www.swlaw.com](http://www.swlaw.com).

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