

**ALAN SULLIVAN AND CHRIS MARTINEZ SUCCESSFULLY REPRESENT  
DEBRA BROWN IN PRO BONO CASE**

**PHOENIX (May 31, 2011)** – Debra Brown, a Logan woman convicted of the 1993 murder of her friend and employer and imprisoned since 1995, was found “factually innocent” by Judge Michael DiReda on Monday May 2, thanks to the efforts of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center (RMIC), Alan Sullivan and Chris Martinez, attorneys at Snell & Wilmer, and Sabrina Fuller, paralegal at Snell & Wilmer.

Debra Brown always maintained her innocence, and in 2002 the RMIC began working on her case. The RMIC is a nonprofit organization that works to “correct and prevent the conviction of innocent people.” Alan Sullivan, who is on the board of directors of the RMIC, and Chris Martinez took the case pro bono after hearing of Deb’s situation and wanted to help. Sabrina Fuller, a paralegal in the Salt Lake office, also volunteered her time and assisted during the evidentiary hearing.

Brown’s case was the first case under Utah’s Factual Determination of Innocence Statute to advance to an evidentiary hearing. This statute, one of few in the country, allows a person convicted of a crime to challenge the factual basis for that conviction with both the evidence available at the time of the conviction and new evidence uncovered after the conviction. Debra Brown’s evidentiary hearing spanned six days in early 2011.

The state originally stated that it intended to appeal. A short time later, however, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff announced over his Twitter feed that “We won’t appeal.” Two weeks later, the Attorney General changed his position again and announced that the State of Utah will appeal the decision after all.

Speaking of the day she was released from prison, Brown commented “I’m the luckiest person on earth right now. It’s the most beautiful day to me I’ve ever seen.”

**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 nine locations throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; 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](http://www.swlaw.com).

###