

**SNELL & WILMER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS  
THROUGH DIVERSITY PRE-LAW PROGRAM**

**PHOENIX (November 8, 2011)** – The Diversity Committee at Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce the names of the five undergraduate students who have been selected to receive the 2011 Snell & Wilmer Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Scholarship. The Snell & Wilmer LSAT Scholarship, a component of the Snell & Wilmer Pre-Law Program, pays the LSAT registration fee and the cost of a commercially available LSAT preparation course on behalf of an eligible diverse individual who plans to attend law school and who either is about to earn or has already earned his or her undergraduate degree. The goal of the firm’s Pre-Law Program is to promote diversity in the legal profession.

The five recipients selected to receive The Snell & Wilmer LSAT Scholarship are Mabel Arellanes, Irena Le, Carlos Molina, Eduardo Reyes-Chavez and Tyson Yazzie:

- Mabel Arellanes was a single mother at the age of 15. After working in a law firm for a few years, she was continually asked when she planned to return to school. Mabel said that she lacked confidence, but that the lawyers encouraged her to receive an education. Mabel left her “dream job” to finish high school. Upon graduation, Mabel immediately enrolled in college. Mabel earned her undergraduate degree from The University of New Mexico with a 3.8 GPA, majoring in English with a minor in Political Science. Mabel looks forward to becoming an attorney. Mabel, who is Latina, wants to “provide a voice for my community while achieving my dreams.” She is grateful for the LSAT scholarship and intends to make her son proud.
- Irena Le fled communist Vietnam with her mother when she was a child. “I am proud of being a refugee, because it has taught me that I am capable of achieving anything, if I am willing to work hard for it . . . .” Irena wrote that she has felt that “doors have closed . . . because of my economic status.” Irena reports that she will be the first in her family to “have a choice at a fulfilling career and not just a job to make ends meet.” She wants to dedicate her life to helping underprivileged immigrants as an attorney. “[I]t’s about having the opportunity to fight for others when all I ever wanted was for someone to fight for me.” Irena graduated from UC Davis with a 3.71 GPA and a major in Psychology.
- Carlos Molina recalled his journey after he graduated from high school. Carlos, who is Latino, reported that he was “socially passed” through each grade level of school and that upon graduating from high school he read at an eighth grade level. He made a decision to turn things around. Carlos graduated from UC Berkley with a 3.5 GPA and majored in Political Science and Legal Studies. He looks forward to giving back to his community and representing those who are economically disadvantaged. He said “Clients will sit across from me with a level of comfort knowing that I ‘get it,’ as we exchange personal stories before or after discussing case matters.”
- Eduardo Reyes-Chavez maintains a 3.8 GPA at the University of Utah majoring in Political Science and Latin American Studies. Eduardo was moved illegally by his mother to the United States when he was a boy. He became a permanent resident in 2009. Eduardo recalls one of his first interactions with immigration officials. When his mother asked for leniency, she was told

"the law is the law." This phrase stuck with Eduardo. He says, "[M]y goal in life [is] to critically analyze current, past, and future immigration law and policy to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform that would be based on the rule of law while also respecting the rights of the immigrant community." Eduardo was pleased to be awarded an LSAT scholarship. He said that he would not have been able to afford the course without help from Snell & Wilmer.

- Tyson Yazzie first heard a quote from Chief Manuelito of the Navajo Indian Reservation when he was in the second grade. These words have carried him through his academic years: "My children, my people, regardless of whatever the future may hold in store for you, you must never forget our prayers, our language, and our culture. Education is the ladder to success. Tell our people to take it." Tyson grew up without television or indoor plumbing in a small one-room house on the Navajo Reservation. He calls education "a blessing and a privilege for me." Tyson is "committed to resolving the crime epidemic on the Navajo Reservation with the law as my weapon." He hopes to become a tribal prosecutor and eventually a judge. Tyson graduated from Arizona State University with a 3.3 GPA, and majored in Criminology and Criminal Justice, with a minor in American Indian Studies.

Individuals planning to take the June 2012 LSAT should submit applications for the Snell & Wilmer LSAT Scholarship before February 1, 2012. A copy of the application and eligibility information can be found on the firm's website <http://www.swlaw.com/the-firm/diversity>.

#### **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 Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; 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).

###