

SNELL & WILMER EXPANDS BUSINESS AND FINANCE GROUP WITH ADDITION OF TWO PARTNERS IN ORANGE COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY (February 6, 2012) – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce the addition of George Ng and William Pedranti as partners in the firm's Orange County business and finance practice. Ng and Pedranti were formerly national co-chairs of the life sciences practice group of Gordon & Rees LLP.

"George and Will bring significant additional strength to our business and finance practice in Orange County," said Bill O'Hare, Administrative Partner of Snell & Wilmer's Orange County office. "With their industry focus on life sciences, they also bring valuable experience that will enhance our ability to serve clients in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device industries."

In addition to this team, 16 new attorneys have joined the firm's Southern California offices in the past six months.

- George Ng, partner, has extensive domestic and cross-border mergers & acquisitions, licensing and transactional experience. He also has extensive global experience in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device matters. Mr. Ng has held various senior management roles with multiple, publicly-traded, global biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies with oversight over legal and intellectual property functions. He has unique industry insight and knowhow gained from his many years of experience serving in numerous in-house legal, business, and operations positions. Mr. Ng has represented companies, both as Chief IP Counsel, in-house, and in private practice, in all intellectual property matters. He was also the Chief Compliance Officer for a biopharmaceutical company where he oversaw the company's compliance efforts across multiple disciplines. He has developed valuable working relationships with numerous state and federal regulatory agencies. Mr. Ng received his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame and his B.A.S. (dual degree) in biochemistry & economics from the University of California, Davis.
- William Pedranti, partner, was recognized in 2011 in the *Daily Journal*'s "25 Leading Biotech Lawyers in California". He has extensive experience performing general company representation for both public and private companies. Mr. Pedranti has also provided counsel regarding compliance with SEC and NASDAQ corporate governance standards. He has represented acquirers and target companies in various types of mergers and acquisitions as well as other business transactions (both U.S. and international). He has also represented companies in securities offerings. Mr. Pedranti was General Counsel for a fast-growing biopharmaceutical company where he led the legal department and was a member of the company's executive committee. He was also the Chief Compliance Officer for a biotech company where he oversaw the company's compliance efforts across multiple disciplines. Mr. Pedranti received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

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 Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Las Vegas and Reno, 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 <u>www.swlaw.com</u>.

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