

**SNELL & WILMER ATTORNEY JOHN DESTEFANO SELECTED AS A 2012
AMERICAN INNS OF COURT PEGASUS SCHOLAR**

PHOENIX (April 24, 2012) – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce that Phoenix attorney John DeStefano was selected as a 2012 Pegasus Scholar by the American Inns of Court. Each year, the Pegasus Scholarship Trust sends two American Inns of Court members to London, England, to study the British legal systems for six weeks. Hosted in London by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, DeStefano spent most days in barristers’ chambers and visiting courts throughout London and the United Kingdom. He was gone February 17, 2012, through April 1, 2012.

While in London, DeStefano worked with leading barristers practicing commercial law as well as media, entertainment and privacy law. He observed court proceedings, assisted with case analysis, and studied the relative virtues of the English and American legal systems. On the media and privacy side, DeStefano explored the workings of English libel law as well as the aggressive protection of privacy rights that exists in the European Union.

“I was amazed at the differences in our litigation culture and approach,” DeStefano said. “Briefing gets less emphasis in the U.K., but the tradition of oral argument is much stronger there than it is in the U.S. In-court arguments carry on for hours, if not days. It was a six-week master class in oral advocacy.”

Outside of chambers, DeStefano made formal visits to courts and judges at all levels of the English court system, including the Old Bailey, the Royal Courts of Justice and the UK Supreme Court. He attended prepublication review of news articles at *The Times* and watched hearings regarding the role of press and police in the phone-hacking scandal. He also participated in a legal training weekend in Windsor Great Park, visited the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, Scotland, and observed argument at the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland.

DeStefano’s practice is concentrated in commercial litigation, with an emphasis in banking, real estate, business tort, professional liability and appellate matters. Before joining Snell & Wilmer, DeStefano spent two years as a law clerk in the federal judiciary. He is a member of the Lorna Lockwood American Inn of Court. DeStefano earned his J.D. from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law where he was senior managing editor of the *Arizona Law Review* and received the award for highest academic achievement in his graduating class. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University.

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; Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; 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 www.swlaw.com.