

## **TWO CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDED AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY THROUGH EFFORTS LED BY SNELL & WILMER ATTORNEY ROB KINAS**

### *Global Community Unites Through Cancer Research, Philanthropy and Tennis*

**LAS VEGAS (June 25, 2014)** – Snell & Wilmer partner [Rob Kinas](#) recently returned home to Las Vegas after attending the 2014 French Open and within a few days boarded another plane to London for Wimbledon. From there, he spent a few days in Croatia and then in early July, he will be in Austin for a tennis match-up between Andy Roddick and Alisa Kleybanova. And, that’s just for starters.

“It’s a travel schedule that would exhaust anyone, but not Rob,” said Mike Marrie, executive director of Snell & Wilmer. “He is driven by a purpose and a passion, and we couldn’t be more proud of his efforts.”

Kinas is the lead “cheerleader” of a growing international group of tennis players and business professionals who are combining their love of tennis and raising money for cancer research projects that are currently underway at Stanford University. Kinas knows all too well the importance of these research projects as the results and findings of one of them saved his life.

Diagnosed in 2005 with a rare blood cancer called Mantle Cell Lymphoma, Kinas was told by his doctors that no effective treatment existed and that conventional treatment extended a person’s life by only 12 to 18 months. Today, Kinas is a nine-year cancer survivor, and he says “it’s for one reason and one reason only – a person cared to fund research.”

Little did he know that within 30 days prior to his diagnosis, a new Mantle Cell Lymphoma protocol (R-Hyper CVAD) became available which was the result of nine years of research, development and clinical trials at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. This research funding came from a New York family who lost their adult daughter to Mantle Cell Lymphoma in the 1990s.

“I owed this family a debt of gratitude,” says Kinas. “When I asked them what I could do to appropriately thank them, they said to “do what we did and thank us by continuing to advance cancer research and save someone else’s life.”

Shortly after Kinas’ treatment and recovery in 2005, he began doing just that. He started hosting small tennis events in Las Vegas to promote cancer awareness and healthy lifestyles. Over time, the events and participation grew, both locally and internationally, and in 2012, the group raised \$150,000 and funded its first cancer research project. From 50 members in 2005 to 5,200 members in 2014, the group is well on its way to funding its third research project through the [American Cancer Society’s “Pay If”](#) program.

As the number of tennis lovers and events continued to grow, Kinas gave the group a name and called it, very aptly, Cancer Research Racquet and launched a [website](#) with the same name. A LinkedIn Group was also created, and it currently has 6,771 members. Visitors to the website can also learn more about cancer researchers [Bryan Mitton, M.D., Ph.D.](#) and [Ryan W. Honaker, Ph.D.](#) and the work they are currently performing for the two studies. Dr. Mitton’s primary research interest is in discovering new therapies for high-risk leukemia, and the goal of Dr. Honaker’s research is to better understand how *Helicobacter pylori* (Hp) causes stomach cells to become cancerous.

“Rob’s enthusiasm for life is contagious,” said [Patrick Byrne](#), administrative partner of the Nevada offices. “This amazing group of people is truly paying it forward, and I applaud their efforts and commitment to finding more cures and treatments for cancer so that more lives can be saved, much like the New York family’s funding helped Rob.”

When Kinas is asked why he loves this group of individuals, he says “We are business men and women who love the game and who care about the cause, and this just feels so right. We are playing tennis with a purpose, and we see the tangible results of our efforts. The members of this group love the game -- watching or playing – and together, we are making a difference. We are spending time with friends we love, and we are meeting new friends around the world who hold the same passions. This provides meaning and joy to all aspects of our lives.”

Snell & Wilmer attorneys Marek Bute, Charles Gianelloni, Blakeley Griffith, Mark Konrad and Jeff Willis also regularly attend the events along with Kinas and the group.

A Snell & Wilmer attorney for nearly 25 years, Kinas has an International-Europe Liaison Practice, concentrated in commercial and corporate bankruptcy, loan restructuring, and commercial finance for businesses throughout the Western United States, including Nevada, Arizona, and California. A native of Illinois, Kinas received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law and his B.A. from Northwestern University. Kinas was one of the founding attorneys of the Snell & Wilmer Las Vegas office in 2001. He is routinely ranked as a leading attorney in The Best Lawyers in America, Mountain States Super Lawyers and Lawdragon. In 2012, he was named Lawyer of the Year for Bankruptcy by The Best Lawyers in America. He was also named Who’s Who in Nevada.

#### **About Snell & Wilmer**

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 Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; 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](http://www.swlaw.com).

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