



AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR SNELL & WILMER



When you give, the saying goes, it comes back to you. Case in point: Snell & Wilmer, which has made giving – to its clients, its industry and its community – a way of life.

The Affiliate of the Year honor has come the company's way, partner Leon F. Mead, II said, because "it reflects our contributions and support for the AGC/NCA (Associated General Contractors/Nevada Contractors Association) legislative agenda this past session and the successes we had as a team."

The Snell & Wilmer construction law team provides legal advice and representation to members of the construction industry.

"We handle both transactional and dispute resolution matters within the construction industry," Mead said. "Our primary focus is on commercial/industrial/infrastructure and other types of non-residential construction work, although on occasion we do prepare and negotiate construction contracts for residential projects. In dispute resolution, we handle administrative citations, court litigation and all types of alternative dispute resolution matters – from partnering to arbitration."

The firm has been involved in numerous new construction and

remodeling projects along the Las Vegas Strip, and several significant projects in Summerlin. "We also have been involved with several multi-million dollar litigation matters in Northern Nevada in the last year."

As Mead said, "My passion, as well as my profession, is for the law of construction, especially in Nevada. Having studied and practiced construction law for the last 20 years, I have developed a wealth of knowledge about how construction law works in Nevada and where the construction industry can be affected, should pending legislation be enacted. I have been an active member of the AGC for 18 years and have been privileged to serve on its board of directors for the last 10. I have always provided as much support to the group from a legal perspective that I can. Most of the time I provide that support without compensation, which allows the AGC to use those funds for other legislative activities."

This year was especially successful, he said. "We finally addressed a number of pestering legal issues such as general contractor liability for subcontractor's unpaid labor debts, residential construction defect excesses, prevailing wage reform and other issues that we have been trying

to resolve for years. I believe that our efforts made a difference."

Snell & Wilmer also provides pro bono legal services that support the construction industry. "While this usually takes the form of donated time, when converted to dollars by calculating against our standard hourly rates the annual contributed value to the (AGC/NCA) is substantial," says Mead.

The firm sponsors multiple charitable organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, CASA, United Way, the Animal Foundation, AFAN, American Cancer Society, MDS and numerous other community associations. The firm maintains a policy of each lawyer providing at least 50 hours of pro bono services each year. "While this may not seem like much," said Mead, "with 50-plus lawyers in Nevada that equates to over 2,500 annual pro bono hours. At standard billing rates, this equates to over \$750,000 in free legal services each year."

The pro bono legal services include poverty law; civil rights and public rights law; and representation of charitable organizations (legal services to charitable, religious, civic, governmental, educational, or similar organizations).

Snell & Wilmer makes business integrity a cornerstone of its legal service. Says Mead, "Our lawyers are expected to conduct themselves with the highest standards of integrity and ethics." Its credo is stated succinctly in three parts:

"For our clients, we will work hard, provide superior legal services on a timely, effective, and efficient basis, and maintain the highest standards of professional integrity.

For our firm, we will foster an enjoyable working environment, based on open communication and mutual respect, and will encourage initiative, innovation, teamwork, and loyalty.

For our community, we will continue our long tradition of service and leadership." — *Howard Riell*