

Established in 1938 • More than
400 Attorneys • Nine Locations
Throughout the Western United
States and in Mexico



Announcing ...

SNELL & WILMER RANKED #3 IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ALLOWANCES OF BUSINESS METHOD PATENTS BY JURISTAT

PHOENIX (February 26, 2016) – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce that Snell & Wilmer was ranked #3 out of all law firms in the United States for allowances of business method patents by Juristat.

“Obtaining an allowance of a business method patent has become extremely difficult with the new standards set by the Courts,” said [Howard Sobelman](#), co-chair of Snell & Wilmer’s intellectual property practice group. “This top ranking from Juristat demonstrates that the Snell & Wilmer intellectual property team has been able to quickly understand and navigate through the new legal landscape to obtain a significant number of allowances for our clients.”

Juristat conducted its rankings by limiting its search to the top firms for 2015 as reported by Intellectual Property Today magazine. The search was then narrowed to firms that had at least 10 applications disposed in the US Patent Office e-commerce art units since June 19, 2014, the date *Alice** was decided. Allowances across these areas in the post-*Alice* era have become increasingly rare. The allowance rates for the Juristat ranking was calculated by dividing a firm’s number of allowed applications by the firm’s total number of disposed applications within the relevant time period.

**Alice v. CLS Bank International* was a decision of the United States Supreme Court regarding patentable subject matter. The issue in the case was whether certain claims about a computer-implemented, electronic escrow service for facilitating financial transactions covered abstract ideas ineligible for patent protection. The patents were held to be invalid because the claims were drawn to an abstract idea and implementing those claims on a computer was not enough to transform that idea into patentable subject matter. The decision has raised concerns on the way the courts and patent examiners interpret software and business methods claims, making its application unpredictable and inconsistent. Since *Alice* was decided, the percentage of applications receiving 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections in the e-commerce art units jumped dramatically from about 30 percent before *Alice* to over 80 percent shortly after *Alice*, with several examiners citing *Alice* in 100 percent of their rejections.

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 Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; 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 www.swlaw.com.

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