



## **SNELL & WILMER RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HERITAGE MONTHS**

**PHOENIX (July 18, 2016)** – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce it recently completed its 2015 – 2016 firm-wide campaign to recognize the National Heritage Months (as determined by the Library of Congress) in an effort to further the Committee on Diversity & Inclusion's internal education initiative. The firm's inaugural campaign was in 2014 – 2015. By honoring the unique qualities of individuals, educating colleagues and building meaningful alliances, the firm strives to promote a diverse group of qualified professionals that reflect the communities and clients it serves.

From September 2015 through June 2016, the Committee recognized a prominent lawyer (or group of lawyers) outside the firm that identified with each Heritage Month. The first month of the 2015 – 2016 campaign was National Hispanic Heritage Month (September), followed by National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October), National Native American Indian Heritage Month (November), African American History Month (February), National Women's History Month (March), Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month (May), Jewish American Heritage Month (May) and LGBT Pride Month (June).

- National Hispanic Heritage Month recognized Luis A. Aguilar who was appointed by President George W. Bush as a Commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2008. Three years later, President Obama reappointed him to the same position. Aguilar was the first Hispanic-American to serve as an SEC Commissioner.
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month acknowledged Bruce Gardner, a native Arizonan and currently a prominent and successful practicing attorney in Phoenix. He lost his sight as a child due to a hereditary condition. In 1985, Gardner left his private practice to begin working as an in-house attorney at Arizona Public Service Company where he continues to work today.
- National Native American Indian Heritage Month celebrated Hilary Tompkins, who was appointed by President Barack Obama as the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 17, 2009. Tompkins is the first Native American to serve in that role.
- African American History Month honored Eric H. Holder, Jr. who was appointed by President Obama as Attorney General of the United States in 2009. Holder worked as Attorney General until September 25, 2015 and is the first African American to serve as the chief law enforcement officer/chief lawyer of the United States government. He is also the fourth longest tenured Attorney General in the country's history.
- National Women's History Month recognized Lieutenant General Flora D. Darpino. She is the first woman to hold the position of Judge Advocate General of the United States Army. Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Army, President Obama appointed Lt. General Darpino Judge Advocate General. She assumed the role of Judge Advocate General on September 4, 2013. As Judge Advocate General, Lt. Gen. Darpino leads nearly 2,000 full-time judge advocates and civilian attorneys who provide legal services to the Army.

- Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month acknowledged Judge Miranda M. Du. In 2011, President Obama nominated Judge Du to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Judge Du was subsequently confirmed by the Senate and took her oath of office in April, 2012. She is the first Asian Pacific American to serve as a federal judge in Nevada and is just one of 25 Asian Pacific American judges serving on the federal bench.
- Jewish American Heritage Month celebrated Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld who founded The Innocence Project in 1992. Since its inception, The Innocence Project has exonerated 341 wrongfully convicted people through the use of DNA evidence, including 20 individuals who had been sentenced to death. Additionally, their efforts have resulted in identifying 147 real perpetrators who were previously walking free while innocent people were serving sentences for their crimes.
- LGBT Pride Month honored Jon W. Davidson, the national Legal Director and Eden/Rushing Chair at Lambda Legal. Lambda Legal is the country's largest and oldest legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those living with HIV. Based in the organization's Western Regional Office, Davidson is responsible for strategically guiding Lambda Legal's legal work and supervising the organization's 22 attorneys, and 15 Legal Help Desk specialists and legal assistants, in all five of Lambda Legal's offices.

Snell & Wilmer's commitment to diversity and inclusion flows from a highly developed strategic framework that provides vision, focus and clarity with a long-term view towards not only advancing diversity and inclusion, but also making them sustainable, measurable and effective business and moral imperatives. The firm has long recognized the benefits of diversity and inclusion and will continue to uphold that tradition to foster its vision statement: One Community, Identity of Many.

## **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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