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Announcing ...

SNELL & WILMER CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

PHOENIX (December 12, 2016) – Snell & Wilmer continues to demonstrate its commitment to diversity and inclusion through a number of recent internal and external achievements and initiatives. By recognizing 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.

- Snell & Wilmer received a perfect score of 100 percent on the [2017 Corporate Equality Index](#), a national benchmarking survey and report on corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ workplace equality, administered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for the LGBTQ community.
- Phoenix partner [Greg Gautam](#) was promoted to lead coordinator of the [State Bar of Arizona's Diversity Legal Writing Program, a role he will formally assume in April of 2017](#). As part of the Program, private law firms welcome second-year diverse law students from Arizona law schools during the spring semester to introduce them to private practice. The participating firms offer writing opportunities and students receive substantive feedback and attend weekly training seminars, where the students discuss their experiences. Since inception the Program has provided approximately \$800,000 in scholarships to almost 170 law students.
- Snell & Wilmer is celebrating its fourth annual announcement of its [Fellowship for Advancement and Resources](#) (FAR) recipients. The fellowship was designed to assist deserving candidates with resources to assist their efforts to become lawyers. Recipients receive a commercial LSAT preparation course, a technology stipend, an audio course with tips on how to succeed in law school, a scholarship for books and a Snell & Wilmer mentor. Over a dozen law schools have partnered with Snell & Wilmer and waive application fees – some also match the book scholarship. Since its introduction, the firm has named eight FAR Fellows of diverse backgrounds across the country. Mentoring attorneys maintain contact with the FAR Fellows while the students are in law school. FAR Fellows are self-identified diverse undergraduate students who were selected based on their academic merit, resilience, financial need and passion to attend law school.
- The [Arizona Black Bar Excellence in Diversity Awards recognized Manuel Cairo](#), former Snell & Wilmer partner, and past chair of the Diversity & Inclusion committee, with the very prestigious Individual Award for his commitment to diversity and inclusion, including his leadership in building the FAR program. Cairo accepted the award by crediting Snell & Wilmer with its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, including its support of pipeline programming.
- Snell & Wilmer partnered with the Latina Mentoring Project to bring together Latina attorneys and law students with judges for a well-attended networking reception. Keynote speaker Lisa Loo, president of the State Bar of Arizona Board of Governors, addressed the group about her experiences as a diverse attorney. She emphasized that inclusion is the cornerstone to diversity efforts and encouraged all attendees, but especially the student attendees, to pursue their goals.

- Snell & Wilmer launched its third annual internal campaign to recognize [National Heritage Months](#) (as determined by the Library of Congress). The 2016-2017 firm-wide campaign will recognize chefs that identify with each Heritage Month. Last year's campaign was focused around recognizing a prominent lawyer (or group of lawyers) outside the firm that identified with each Heritage Month.
- Snell & Wilmer's [committee on Diversity & Inclusion](#) announced its new co-chairs: [Greg Gautam](#), partner in the phoenix office and [Roxanne Veliz](#), partner in the Tucson office. As co-chairs, Gautam and Veliz will continue the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion, which flows from a highly developed strategic framework and 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.
- Las Vegas attorney [Karl Riley](#) will complete his year of service in December as Chair of the [National Black Law Students Association's](#) (NBLSA) Advisory Board. NBLSA is a national organization formed to articulate and promote the needs and goals of Black law students to effectuate change in the legal community.

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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