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Announcing ...

## BARBARA J. DAWSON LEADS AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LARGEST SECTION

**PHOENIX (August 26, 2019)** – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce Barbara J. Dawson, a partner in the firm's Phoenix office, officially accepted 'the gavel' as the 2019-20 Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Litigation (Section) during the recent ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. In this role, Dawson leads the nearly 40,000 litigators, judges and arbitrators who comprise the largest section of the ABA.

"I am truly honored to lead the Section of Litigation over the course of the next year," said Dawson. "I look forward to working closely with the Section's excellent managing directors and the extended membership as we embark on a list of critical priorities. As with each chair to precede and follow me, I hope to bring something unique to this role. My background as an Iowan, an Arizonan, and the first woman with Latin American roots to hold the position gives me a broad range of experiences to draw upon in this very important role."

During Dawson's term, the ABA's Standing Committee on the American Judicial System will fall under the Section's purview. This change fits with the Section's mission of advancing education surrounding the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. The Section will also be actively engaged with the Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which gave women the right to vote. This centennial will play an instrumental role during the Women's Conference in Chicago in November and the Section will kick off the celebration of women with a tribute to Justice O'Connor's leadership and legacy at the Fall Leadership Meeting in Arizona. The year will conclude with the Section Annual Conference and Spring Leadership Meeting in Washington, D.C. with a focus on the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, the press and the best of trial advocacy. Special events are also planned at the African American Museum and the Library of Congress.

In addition, the Section will focus efforts to help the courts and to build membership. Such activities include, among others: a special project on efficiency in state court litigation, outreach to bring more plaintiffs' lawyers into the Section, a membership growth initiative on local links across the country and continued support of the Section's core projects, such as the Section's 40+ substantive and related support committees, the Section's highly acclaimed publications, as well as the exceptional corporate counsel, insurance and regional meetings. The Section will also continue its commitment to areas including children's rights advocacy, access to justice, the judicial intern opportunity program, along with special projects such as work to assist unaccompanied minors with immigration issues, pro bono efforts for military families, and the death penalty representation project.

At Snell & Wilmer, Dawson serves on the firm's elected five-person Executive Committee and three-person Compensation Committee. She has also led the firm's commercial litigation and international practices. Dawson's practice focuses on assisting Fortune 500 businesses and boards of directors with internal investigations, complex litigation and regulatory compliance. She assists companies when legal challenges arise from government action, shareholder, consumer and whistle-blower claims, and other circumstances



Barbara J. Dawson with past Section Chair, Palmer Gene Vance II

involving business-threatening conflict and crisis management. She has deep industry experience with several highly regulated business sectors, including financial services, energy, government contracting and technology.

On a national basis, Dawson recently served as one of 16 members of the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary that vets and rates federal judicial candidates for the United States Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and District Courts. On an international basis, she has served as Chair of the Board of Directors for Lex Mundi, an international affiliation of 160 independent law firms located in 100 countries. Dawson frequently assists clients with matters involving non-U.S. parties and venues, international compliance issues and cross-border investigations. Her experience has included legal engagements, law-related presentations, projects and board of directors' duties on six continents.

Dawson received her J.D., with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law and her B.S., with distinction, from Iowa State University.

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Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 425 attorneys practicing in 12 locations throughout the United States and in Mexico, including Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Washington, D.C.; Boise, Idaho; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; 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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