



Attorney David Nigro has used his skills to help raise funding and awareness for blind children.

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BY JANET PEREZ | Contributing writer

Daughter’s vision loss brought David Nigro to helping children

A personal experience and the realization that his legal skills could help others propelled David Nigro to devote his time and energy to causes that have helped thousands of Arizona residents.

Nigro has been an attorney at Snell & Wilmer for 11 years, where he specializes in intellectual property law. His vision of his place in the world widened when he discovered his newborn daughter was diagnosed with vision loss.

“I realized that my skills as an attorney made me a good fit for navigating the systems that serve the blind and visually impaired community,” he said. “I also realized that other parents may not be so fortunate. I was inspired to help serve the blind and their families because I know firsthand the struggles they face, and it means the world to me that my efforts can help make a difference in their lives.”

His commitment to helping children

Philanthropic
Champion
WINNER

David Nigro

TITLE:
ATTORNEY

ORGANIZATION:
SNELL & WILMER

with disabilities, joining the Foundation for Blind Children’s board of trustees and being appointed to the Board of Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey underscore his devotion to his cause.

Nigro’s philanthropic work has helped thousands of deaf and blind children in Arizona. He is the only person who serves on both the boards of the Foundation for Blind Children and the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Now in his fifth year as a board member for the Foundation for Blind Children, Nigro was involved in opening a new building for FBC as well as developing new digital technologies to help track and deliver educational services to blind children.

He has accomplished much in his professional and philanthropic career, but for Nigro, nothing beats the experience he had in November.

Nigro set sail from Puerto Rico as a sighted

guide for 12 blind teenage students crewing three sail boats. He served as the eyes for these blind students for six nights over 110 nautical miles through squalls and high swells around the Spanish Virgin Islands.

The Blind Buccaneers, as the young sailors were dubbed, had to raise and lower sails, man the anchor, steer the boat, tack and jibe, cook, clean and even swab the decks. Perhaps more exciting, thanks to Nigro’s leadership, the teens experienced the ocean floor and swam with wild dolphins.

They also jumped off boats, swam to the beaches, learned to paddleboard, kayak and tie knots.

“I am proud that I was able to help guide the Blind Buccaneers as they sailed the Caribbean,” Nigro said. “This was the first time that many of these students felt the ocean life, and I am honored to have been able to provide them with those life-changing memories.”

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