

Established in 1938, Snell & Wilmer has more than 425 attorneys in 12 locations in the United States and in Mexico.

Announcing ...

SNELL & WILMER ATTORNEYS NAMED FLORENCE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS PROJECT'S PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

PHOENIX (November 15, 2019) – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce that Phoenix associates [Shalayne Pillar](#) and [Rachael Peters Pugel](#), along with former Snell & Wilmer associate Lindsay Short, were recognized as Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project's Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year at the 2019 [Florence Project Pro Bono Appreciation Event](#).

The Florence Project is a nonprofit that provides free legal and social services to detained immigrants in Arizona facing removal proceedings. Founded in 1989, the Florence Project has served adults in immigration detention for 30 years and has served children since 2000.

"The experience has been immensely rewarding to everyone involved and the team is particularly grateful for all the support provided by Snell & Wilmer," said Pillar and Pugel. "It was truly an honor to be recognized as the Florence Project's Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year."

Pillar and Pugel were recognized for a case they took up from the Florence Project in 2017. At that time, ICE had already been holding the client in detention for several months for unlawful entry into the United States. The client, who qualified for cancellation of removal, was the main caretaker for his two United States citizen children, one of whom suffers from autism and other medical disorders.

Based on this information, the Snell & Wilmer team requested the Immigration Court cancel the client's order of removal, arguing that the "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" the client's child would face should his father be deported was more than that which other children would face in similar circumstances. The team was fortunate enough to be able to work with a nationally recognized expert in autism treatment, who met with the client and his child in the weeks leading up to the removal hearing. The team presented this expert testimony to the court, in addition to testimony from the client and the client's ex-wife (the mother of his children). After several hours of testimony and cross-examination by the government, the Immigration Judge ruled in the client's favor and cancelled his order of removal.

Thereafter, the government appealed the Immigration Judge's ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals, where the Snell & Wilmer team continued to represent the client. The Board overturned the Immigration Judge's ruling and ordered the client's deportation. After consulting with Snell & Wilmer partner Andrew Jacobs, they decided to appeal the Board's decision to the Ninth Circuit on constitutional grounds. Currently, the team is awaiting an oral argument date.

About Snell & Wilmer

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



Associates Shalayne Pillar and Rachael Peters Pugel won Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year.

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.

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