

Snell & Wilmer

# News Release

## SNELL & WILMER ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED AMONG ARIZONA BAR FOUNDATION'S TOP PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

PHOENIX (June 29, 2022) – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce that attorneys [Marsha Cotton](#), [Paloma Diaz](#) and [Lauren Merdinger](#) were recognized among the Arizona Bar Foundation's Top Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year.

The [Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education](#) instituted the annual award in 2001 to recognize attorneys who "have tirelessly given their time and expertise to assist Arizonans who would otherwise have no legal resources." The State Bar of Arizona created the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education with the mission of promoting access to justice for all Arizonans.

Cotton has a multi-faceted commercial litigation practice that includes advising clients on all aspects of dispute resolution. She has assisted in the representation of clients in matters involving breach of contract, cyber security, business tort, tax, intellectual property, trust and estate, tribal, gaming, real property, and employment issues. She works with companies of all sizes in a multitude of industries such as nonprofit organizations, cannabis companies, resort and travel companies, financial institutions, hospitals, and product manufacturers, among others. Cotton also has experience advising companies doing business on tribal land with various aspects of regulatory compliance. She is a 2018 graduate of the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Prior to joining Snell & Wilmer, Cotton served as a judicial law clerk at the Arizona State Court of Appeals, Division I and the U.S. District Court, District of Arizona.



Marsha Cotton

Diaz focuses her practice in commercial litigation. She graduated magna cum laude from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University where she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Arizona State Law Journal. Before joining the firm, Diaz clerked for Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel of the Arizona Supreme Court. Diaz has assisted in the representation of a variety of clients across multiple industries, in matters involving breach of contract, cyber security, intellectual property disputes, gaming, and financial services litigation. She regularly analyzes and briefs complex legal issues and utilizes her research and analysis skills to draft complaints, answers, and pretrial motions.



Paloma Diaz

Merdinger advises clients in connection with a broad range of commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, development, joint ventures and leasing transactions, as well as financing transactions involving mortgage loan, mezzanine and CMBS financing. She represents purchasers and sellers, as well as landlords and tenants, of various property types, such as office (including medical office), retail and hotel. Additionally, Merdinger has significant experience representing purchasers of property with triple-net lease tenants. Within the REIT industry, Merdinger has experience with both large single-asset and portfolio transactions.



Lauren Merdinger

**About Snell & Wilmer**

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 450 attorneys practicing in 16 locations throughout the United States and in Mexico, including Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego, California; Denver, Colorado; Washington, D.C.; Boise, Idaho; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Portland, Oregon; Dallas, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Seattle, Washington; and Los Cabos, Mexico. The firm represents clients ranging from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [swlaw.com](http://swlaw.com).

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