

Snell & Wilmer



Barbara J. Dawson

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Main Bio

Barb Dawson is a senior investigations and litigation partner. She serves on the firm's elected five-person Executive Committee and three-person Compensation Committee. She also has led the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group and its International Practice Group.

Barb's practice concentrates on assisting Fortune 500 businesses and boards of directors with internal investigations, complex litigation and regulatory compliance. Best Lawyers in America® has recognized her as Phoenix Lawyer of the Year for Regulatory Enforcement Litigation. Barb assists companies when legal challenges arise from government action, shareholder, consumer and whistle-blower claims, ESG issues, and other circumstances involving business-threatening conflict and crisis management. She has deep industry experience with several highly regulated business sectors, including financial services, energy, education and technology.

On a national basis, Barb has chaired the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation and currently serves on the board of the Rule of Law Initiative. She 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, Barb has served as chair of the Board of Directors for Lex Mundi, an international affiliation of 160+ independent law firms located in 100+ countries. She 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.

Education

- University of Iowa College of Law (J.D., with distinction)
 - Senior Note and Comment Editor, Journal of Corporation Law
- Iowa State University (B.S., with distinction)
 - Senior Class President

Professional Memberships & Activities

- American Bar Association
 - Section of Litigation, Past Chair

- Member of Leadership
 - Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, Past Member
 - Rule of Law Initiative, Board Member
- American Bar Foundation
- American Law Institute
- Arizona Bar Association
 - Access to Justice Taskforce, Past Member
 - State Bar Convention Committee, Past Chair
 - Legal Services Committee, Past Chair
- Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education, Fellow
 - Board of Directors, Past Chair
- Arizona Tax Research Association
 - Board of Directors, Past Member
- International Bar Association
- [Lex Mundi](#)
 - Board of Directors, Past Chair
 - Global Program Committee, Past Member
 - Dispute Resolution Committee, Past Chair
 - Diversity Taskforce, Past Coordinator
 - Women and the Law Committee, Past Chair

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "[Legal Industry Outlook for 2023](#)," Quoted, Arizona Business Leaders (January 2023)
- "[The Portia Project](#)," Podcast Guest (December 8, 2022)
- "Corporate Counsel Perspective: A Conversation with David G. Leitch, Global General Counsel of Bank of America," Moderator, ACC Arizona Chapter (2021)
- "COVID-19 Class Actions and Mass Disputes," Panelist, Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Conference (2021)
- "Affirmed: The Impact of Sandra Day O'Connor," Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 47, No. 1, pp. 31-34 (Fall 2020)
- "[Board of Directors' Duties for Internal Investigations](#)," Host, Snell & Wilmer CalCurrent Podcast (August 27, 2020)
- "Post-Pandemic: Can the Rule of Law Improve?" Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 4, pp. 4-5 (Summer 2020)
- "[Most Influential Women: Barb Dawson](#)," Featured, AZ Big Media (July 17, 2020)
- "[SEC Awards Record Payout of Nearly \\$50 Million to Whistleblower](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 16, 2020)
- "Improving Decision-Making Under Stress," Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 3, p. 4 (Spring 2020)

- "[As America Reopens, Prepare for Flood of Coronavirus Workplace Lawsuits](#)," Quoted, CNBC (May 20, 2020)
- "[Coronavirus Goes to Court: After Lives and Livelihoods Come the Lawsuits](#)," Quoted, USA Today (April 3, 2020)
- "Protecting Democracy - We Can Do Better," Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 2, p. 4 (Winter 2020)
- "The Superpower of the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program," Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp. 4-5 (Fall 2019)
- "Director-Led Investigations," Co-Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 45, No. 4, pp. 46-51 (Summer 2019)
- "Ethics Smorgasbord," Panelist, Federal Bar Association Phoenix Chapter (2019)
- "Crisis and Investigation Management in the Era of the 24/7 News Cycle," Presenter, ACC Arizona Chapter (2019)
- ACS #MeToo Listening Panel, Panelist (2019)
- General Counsel Forum, Moderator, ABA Section of Litigation, Corporate Counsel CLE Seminar (2019)
- "Keys to Business Development: Strategies to Build a Sustainable Book of Business," Presenter, ABA Section of Litigation, Professional Success Summit (2018)
- "Ethics in Litigation," Guest Presenter, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (2018)
- "Internal Investigations - Current Developments," Presenter (2017)
- "Counsel on the Hot Seat: Managing Internal Investigations," Co-Author and Presenter, Snell & Wilmer Corporate Counsel Forum (2017)
- "Seeking Success in International Mediation," Author, Litigation Magazine, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 18-19 (Winter 2016)
- Global Symposium, Lex Mundi/ACC Arizona Chapter/Snell & Wilmer, Program Chair (2011, 2013, 2016)
- "War Stories and Lessons Learned," Presenter, Maricopa County Bar Association (2015)
- "Protecting the Attorney-Client Privilege in Internal Investigations," Co-Author and Moderator, Snell & Wilmer Corporate Counsel Forum (2015)
- "If I Knew Then What I Know Now — Tips From Proven Leaders," American Bar Association Section of Litigation (2014)
- "[Female Powerbrokers Q&A: Snell & Wilmer's Barb Dawson](#)," Feature Article, Law360 (February 21, 2014)
- "[In Government's Shoes: The Continuing Force Behind the False Claims Act & Qui Tam Complaints](#)," Co-Author, Arizona Attorney (March 2014)
- "Standing in the Shoes of the Government — The Rise of Qui Tam Litigation," Snell & Wilmer Corporate Counsel Forum (2013)
- "Ethics in Merger & Acquisitions: A Review of Best Practices from Pre- and Post-Closing," Presenter, ACC Arizona Chapter (2013)
- "Lex Mundi/ACC Southeastern Global Symposium," Moderator (2013)

- "Disclosing and Reserving for Loss Contingencies," Presenter (2013)
- "[Barb Dawson: Winning Cases and Leading Lawyers in and from the Valley of the Sun](#)," Of Counsel Interview: Vol. 31, Iss. 11 (November 2012)
- "Litigation Management in Evolving Times," Moderator, ACC Utah Chapter (2012)
- "Commercial Litigation Funding & Investment 2012," Presenter, New York Digital Sandbox (2012)
- "[Discovering Risks for Non-US Entities: Adapting to US Rules of Engagement](#)," Chapter Co-Author, Inside the Minds: Complying with International Discovery Regulations; Leading Lawyers on Understanding Rules for Discovery in Foreign Countries, Aspatore Books (2012)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- [Top Leader Making a Real Difference](#), In Business Magazine (2021)
- AZ Business Leader, AZ Business Leaders Magazine (2020, 2022,2023)
- Maricopa County Bar Association, Hall of Fame Inductee (2018)
- Outstanding Women in Business, Phoenix Business Journal (2016)
- Benchmark Litigation, Local Litigation Star – Arizona, Antitrust, General Commercial (2016-2021)
- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business®, Litigation: General Commercial (2014-2022)
- Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona, AZ Business Magazine (2014-2019)
- Walter E. Craig Distinguished Service Award, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education (2013)
- ATHENA Award, Business Woman of the Year, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (2009)
- The Best Lawyers in America® (2008-2023): Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Action - Defendants, Regulatory Enforcement Litigation (SEC, Telecom, Energy), Securities Litigation, Arbitration, Phoenix Lawyer of the Year, Regulatory Enforcement Litigation (SEC, Telecom, Energy)
- Southwest Super Lawyers®, Business Litigation (2007-2022)
- Top Honors (2022)
- Who's Who Legal, Commercial Litigation (2008-2021)
- Phoenix Business Journal, 40 Under 40 Award (2001)
- Volunteer of the Year, Arizona Volunteer Lawyers Program

Community Involvement

- DirectWomen, Honoree Committee
- Judicial Intern Opportunity Program
 - Sponsor and Arizona Founder
- Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation
 - Past Chair
- Ninth Circuit Historic Society, Advisory Committee Member
- Phoenix Committee on Foreign Relations
 - Board of Directors, Past Member

- Valley Leadership Class XVI
- XICO
 - Board of Directors, Past Member
 - Program Committee Member

Bar Admissions

- Arizona
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Arizona
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court, District of Arizona
- United States District Court, District of Columbia