

**COSTA MESA, CA (December 22, 2010)** – Snell & Wilmer is pleased to announce that prominent appellate lawyer, Mary-Christine “M.C.” Sungaila, has joined the Orange County office where she will assist in expanding the firm’s well-regarded appellate practice. M.C. is also a recognized human rights advocate and community leader.

Prior to joining the firm, M.C. was a partner with Horvitz & Levy LLP, where, for 13 years, she successfully briefed and argued appeals raising cutting-edge and core business issues statewide, nationally and internationally. She has particular experience in complex toxic tort cases involving emerging issues of importance to the chemical industry. She has helped define the scope of the duty to warn sophisticated users of product hazards, set the guidelines for admitting expert testimony at trial and overturn multi-million dollar judgments.

In 2010, she was the 29th alumnae member honored by Alpha Phi International Fraternity for professional achievement and was also named one of the Top 100 Women Litigators in California by the *Daily Journal*. Her pro bono work in the areas of human rights and women's rights includes a win last year in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights which was called “one of the most important legal victories for international women’s rights in decades.”

M.C. will continue serving as chair of the Amicus Briefs Committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) and vice-chair of the IADC’s Appellate Practice Committee, as well as an appointed member of the Women Lawyers’ Association and Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Joint Task Force on Retaining and Promoting Women in Law Firms.

“M.C. is a terrific person and a wonderful lawyer. We are very fortunate to have her join our team,” said Rick Derevan, partner and appellate specialist with Snell & Wilmer.

M.C. will continue to take a leading role in the community at large serving as a California Ambassador to the Vision 2020 Equality in Sight Conference; as a state coordinator for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s online civics education program iCivics; on the executive committees of LACMA’s (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) Modern and Contemporary Art Council; and on Claremont Graduate University’s Board of Advisors for Arts and Humanities. At the end of 2010, she will conclude two terms as board president of Break the Cycle, a national organization committed to ending teen dating violence.

M.C. received her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she was a member of the Moot Court Honors Program. She earned her B.A. in political science *with honors* in humanities from Stanford University, where she graduated *with distinction*.

#### **About Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.**

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 400 attorneys practicing in nine locations throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Orange County and Los Angeles, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; 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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