

**SNELL & WILMER ACHIEVES NINTH CIRCUIT VICTORY IN  
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CASE**

**DENVER (September 30, 2009)** — Nearly five years ago, the Philippine Province of Marinduque filed suit against Placer Dome, Inc. now Barrick Gold Corporation, charging the company with causing extensive damage to the Province, its environment, its economy and its people – before the company’s flight from the Philippines. The case was filed in Nevada, the heartland of Barrack’s worldwide operations.

On September 29, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed two federal district court rulings supporting Barrick’s efforts to remove the case to federal court and then to a Vancouver court, and ordered the case returned to the Nevada state court in which it was originally filed. In the process, the Court brought the Province much closer to the on-the-merits examination of the defendant’s conduct that the Province has sought for so many years. The Ninth Circuit decision notes, in part:

In sum, the Province alleges that Placer significantly harmed Marinduque and its people, including through the contamination and degradation of the environment, which in turn caused blood diseases, skin disorders, and stomach ailments among the islanders. And since Placer Dome left Marinduque in 1997, it has done nothing, according to the Province, to ameliorate the problems it created, and has actively evaded responsibility.

The story of the Philippine Province of Marinduque is an important one; it offers a case study of the difficulties inherent in holding multinational mining companies accountable for their most environmentally disastrous actions.

The Province is represented by the law firms of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. and Diamond McCarthy LLP. According to Neil Peck of Snell & Wilmer, "this case presents significant issues of corporate responsibility for egregious mining practices which have caused untold environmental damage, human injury, and suffering to the Island of Marinduque and its people."

To see the Ninth Circuit’s opinion, please click [here](#).

**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 eight offices throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Denver, Colorado; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Los Cabos, Mexico; and Salt Lake City, Utah. 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).