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Contact: Ewelina Kajak, Marketing Manager  
[ekajak@swlaw.com](mailto:ekajak@swlaw.com) | 714.427.7472

**SNELL & WILMER SPONSORS  
LAIPLA'S WASHINGTON IN THE WEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**LOS ANGELES (February 7, 2012)** – Snell & Wilmer is a sponsor of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association's (LAIPLA) 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington in The West Conference on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles, CA. Greer Shaw, intellectual property partner at Snell & Wilmer's Los Angeles office, is the Chair of the conference. Ketan Vakil, intellectual property partner in Snell & Wilmer's Orange County office, will also be participating as a panelist.

The conference is a full day event that brings together practitioners, in-house counsel, professors and representatives from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for a day of presentations and networking opportunities. Presentations range from discussions regarding the America Invents Act, best practices before the USPTO to moderated panels on legal updates considering the state of obviousness and subject matter patentability and the state of reexaminations before the USPTO.

“As Chair of the 15th Annual Washington in The West Conference, I am very proud of the program that we have put together this year,” Shaw said. “Snell & Wilmer is very pleased to provide financial support to the conference, and more importantly, to bring the time and energy of its intellectual property lawyers to LAIPLA and this conference. I strongly encourage the entire Los Angeles intellectual property legal community to attend.”

Shaw is a trial attorney specializing in patent litigation. He has litigated patent infringement matters involving a wide variety of technologies, including internet postage systems and methods, network monitoring methods, transportation devices, medical devices and therapies, portable digital audio devices, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, chip packaging technologies, flooring products and data storage devices, among others.

Vakil's practice is concentrated in intellectual property protection, litigation, counseling, and licensing including the procurement and litigation of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. He has significant experience in preparing and prosecuting patents and trademarks, evaluating prior art for patentability, infringement and validity, preparing infringement and validity opinions, and counseling clients on intellectual property strategies, development, licensing and infringement.

**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 Los Angeles and Orange County, 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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