

Snell & Wilmer



Barbara J. Dawson

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Main Bio

As Snell & Wilmer's Firm Chair, Barb Dawson supports and advances the growth and development of its practices across the firm's sixteen office locations. She has served on the firm's Executive Committee and three-person Compensation Committee for several years. Barb has also led the firm's commercial litigation practice group and its international industry group.

Barb's practice has concentrated on assisting Fortune 500 businesses and boards of directors with internal investigations, complex litigation, and regulatory compliance. She has received broad recognition for both her business and legal skills in handling "bet the business" matters and large portfolios of litigation and investigation issues. Barb has deep industry experience with several highly regulated business sectors including financial services, energy, education, and technology.

Nationally, Barb previously served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation. She also served as one of sixteen 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. Barb currently serves on the ABA's Governance Commission.

Internationally, 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 issues, and cross-border investigations. Barb's experience has included legal engagements, law-related presentations, projects, and board of directors' duties on six continents.

Barb's pro bono work has included co-founding Arizona's first HIV/AIDS legal clinic at the beginning of her career, co-chairing the State Bar of Arizona's Legal Services Committee, and co-chairing the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education's Board of Directors.

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
 - Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, Working Group Member - Phoenix (2023 - 2024)
 - 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

- "[Mentorship Milestones](#)," Featured, Az Business Magazine (January/February 2024)
- "[Here are the Legal Industry Trends to Watch in 2024](#)," Featured, AZ Big Media (December 29, 2023)
- "[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)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- AZ Business Leader, AZ Business Leaders Magazine (2019-2020, 2022-2024)
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2023-2024)
- The Best Lawyers in America® (2008-2024): 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 (2007-2024)
 - Top 25 Female Lawyers in Arizona (2013-2018, 2022-2023)
- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business®, Litigation: General Commercial (2014-2024)
- ABA Diversity & Inclusion Center, 21 Hispanic Legal Trailblazers (2023)
- SALA Trailblazer Honoree (2023)
- Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona, AZ Business Magazine (2014-2019, 2023)
- Top Honors (2022)

- Who's Who Legal, Commercial Litigation (2008-2021)
- Top Leader Making a Real Difference, In Business Magazine (2021)
- Benchmark Litigation, Local Litigation Star - Arizona, Antitrust, General Commercial (2016-2021)
- Maricopa County Bar Association, Hall of Fame Inductee (2018)
- Outstanding Women in Business, Phoenix Business Journal (2016)
- Walter E. Craig Distinguished Service Award, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education (2013)
- ATHENA Award, Businesswoman of the Year, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (2009)
- Phoenix Business Journal, 40 Under 40 Award (2001)
- Volunteer of the Year, Arizona Volunteer Lawyers Program

Community Involvement

- Greater Phoenix Leadership, Board of Directors
- American Bar Association
 - Governance Commission, Member
 - Section of Litigation, Past Chair and Member of Leadership
 - Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, Past Member
 - Rule of Law Initiative, Past Board Member
- American Bar Foundation, Member
- American Law Institute, Member
- State Bar of Arizona
 - Legal Services Committee, Past Chair
 - State Bar Convention Committee, Past Chair
 - Access to Justice Taskforce, Past Member
- Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education
 - Board of Directors, Past Chair
- Arizona Tax Research Association
 - Board of Directors, Past Member
- International Bar Association, Member
- Lex Mundi
 - Board of Directors, Past Chair
 - Firm Review Committee, Member
 - Litigation, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Committee, Past Chair
 - Diversity Taskforce, Past Coordinator
 - Women and the Law Committee, Past Chair

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