

MARIA IOLANDA B. ABELLA

Position: Senior Partner
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Ms. Abella joined ACCRALAW's Cebu Office in 1993 as an associate. She became partner in 2002 and after twenty five (25) years in the firm became Senior Partner in 2016. She co-supervised ACCRALAW Davao in 2013 and took over as sole supervising partner in 2016.

Ms. Abella obtained her Master of Laws degree from the University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia in 2000. She is an alumna of the University of San Carlos where she finished her undergraduate studies in Biology with Magna Cum Laude honors. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws degree from the same university with Cum Laude honors in 1990.

Among Ms. Abella's special fields of practice are Business Law, Business Process Outsourcing, Commercial Law, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Corporate Law, Employee Benefits, Immigration, Investment Law, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Mergers & Acquisitions and Real Estate. She assists domestic and foreign investors set up their businesses in the Philippines, and is involved in corporate compliance, contracting and conveyancing, mergers and acquisitions, and other corporate law/governance issues, as well as cross-jurisdictional legal issues. She also handles litigation, including trial and appellate work.

Ms. Abella is an active member of the Cebu City Chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines where she held the position of director in 1996. She is former president of the Cebu Chapter of the *Federacion Internacional de Abogadas* where she continues to be active as member of the council of Past Presidents. She is currently director and corporate secretary of various business organizations. She is also involved in civic organizations promoting the advancement of the welfare of women and children.

Ms. Abella is recognized by AsiaLaw as Leading Lawyer in Corporate/Mergers & Acquisitions, Construction and Real Estate for 2015. Thus, in the AsiaLaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards 2015, Ms. Abella was cited as a Ranked Lawyer in Corporate/ Mergers & Acquisitions and Real Estate. Ms. Abella is likewise a recommended lawyer by the Asia Pacific Legal 500 in the fields of Dispute Resolution in Cebu and Davao.