



DIVINAL LAW
Dynamic Lawyering



CORPORATE PROFILE



ABOUT DIVINALAW



DivinaLaw was established in 2006 by Atty. Nilo T. Divina. The Firm started with five lawyers coming from different areas of legal practice. From the beginning, it has particularly distinguished itself in a full range of corporate legal practice, particularly corporate take-over, mergers and acquisitions, corporate rehabilitation. Advocating and practicing dynamic lawyering—being prompt, proactive, and results oriented—DivinaLaw quickly grew to become one of the largest law firms in the Philippines, with 65 lawyers in its roster and counting.

The firm is bent on conquering not just the Philippine legal landscape, but the great Asian region as well. Its aggressive and rapid expansion became eminent when it opened its Cebu satellite office in 2015, and the Singapore Corporate office in 2016 (the only Philippine law firm to do so). DivinaLaw also partnered with 13 local law firms who represent clients all over the Philippines, as part of its aim to reach out to a wider range of clients and to complement its corporate, commercial, and arbitration-related services.

CLIENTELE

DivinaLaw's clients include leading companies in banking and finance, manufacturing, retail, power, oil and gas, health care and insurance, realty and property development, technology, construction, investment management, entertainment, tourism, wellness resort, manning agencies, airline, and transportation.

GENERAL PRACTICE AREAS

DivinaLaw is engaged in five major practice areas: Litigation, Corporate and Special Services, Tax and Estate Planning, Crisis Management and Communication, and Legal Education and Policy Reform. Our Firm's lawyers are some of the most qualified in their respective practice areas, and are relentless in the pursuit of all legal means to protect our clients' interests.



The Firm's Litigation Group is committed to help clients avoid the costs and inconvenience of going into trial. When litigation becomes unavoidable, the Firm strategizes and determines the best course of action to fully protect the client's interests or to contain the risks and minimize its effects. It has won landmark cases which eventually found their way in the annals of Philippine jurisprudence.

The Corporate and Special Services Group provides a full range of corporate legal services, in particular, corporate take-overs, mergers and acquisitions, corporate rehabilitation, strategy on intra-corporate controversy, advice on banking and finance, from incorporation to liquidation, as well as corporate secretarial and director-nominee services, among others.

Our Tax and Estate Planning Department assists in tax law compliance to minimize tax implications, and renders tax planning advice and opinions on various commercial and financial matters. They also provide aid in all aspects of estate planning including the drafting of wills, the appointment of executors, and the distribution of assets to the beneficiaries.

The Crisis Management and Communication Group is a trailblazing service in the legal industry that complements the Firm's practice. From crisis management planning to actual implementation, DivinaLaw has been able to assist its clients in situations of potential or actual crisis, both from a legal and PR standpoint.

The Legal Education and Policy Reform Group is composed of competent and experienced lawyers that can draft policy measures and proposed legislations which can be brought to the attention of the pertinent governmental bodies, when simple laws are not enough to address a client's needs.

■ **Corporate and Special Projects**

- Banking and finance
- General corporate services
- Special projects
- Insurance
- Corporate rehabilitation
- Debt and equity restructuring
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Corporate rehabilitation and insolvency
- Foreign investment
- Power generation and energy (oil, gas, and petroleum)
- Information Technology
- Environmental law
- Intellectual property
- Transportation and maritime law
- Project finance
- Cross-border transactions
- Formation of juridical entities
- Corporate housekeeping

■ **Litigation**

- Corporate and civil litigation
- Criminal prosecution and defense
- Alternative dispute resolution and arbitration
- Labor and employment
- Family law
- Local government, election, and administrative law
- Naturalization and Immigration

■ **Tax and Estate Planning**

- Taxation
- Estate planning

■ **Crisis Management and Communication**

■ **Legal Education and Policy Reform**





LOCAL AFFILIATES

With its aim to reach out to a wider range of clients and to complement its corporate, commercial, and arbitration-related services, DivinaLaw has partnered with local law firms who represent clients all over the Philippines:

THE LAW FIRM OF TORREON AND PARTNERS
(Davao City)

ORACION BARLIS AND ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE
(Baguio City)

AGRANZAMENDEZ LICERALDE GALLARDO & ASSOCIATES
(Baguio City)

MAXINO AND ASSOCIATES
(Dumaguete City)

BUÑOL-ALFUENTE & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE
(Iloilo City)

THE LAW OFFICE OF ALBERTO L. DESLATE
(Roxas City, Capiz)

BALITE -DIPUTADO LAW OFFICE
(Tagbilaran City, Bohol)

SORRERA-TY SALISE-GONZAGA LAW OFFICE CO.
(Butuan City)

TARUC-ORENCIA ORENCIA LAW OFFICE
(Tarlac City)

AQUENDE AQUENDE & PARTNERS
(Legazpi City)

ALFELOR MORALED A ALFELOR LAW OFFICES
(Naga City)

C. BAUTO FLORES LAW OFFICE
(Cabanatuan City)

GAABUCAYAN MATEO & ASSOCIATES
(Cagayan de Oro City)





INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Lawyers Associated Worldwide

DivinaLaw is currently the only Filipino law firm that is a member of Lawyers Associated Worldwide (LAW), a by-invitation-only organization based in the United States. Candidates for membership undergo a thorough due diligence process.

LAW currently has over 100 member firms located in over 180 commercial jurisdictions in nearly sixty countries, representing a global resource of over 3,500 individual lawyers.



Lawyers
Associated
Worldwide

Legalink

Legalink is a non-exclusive, international legal network of over 60 independent business-oriented law firms with members from the majority of the world's main commercial centres.

The Network is now composed of more than 3,000 legal professionals.

Legalink operates internationally but personally delivering top quality multi-jurisdictional legal services. The world economy is becoming increasingly globalised, to succeed, businesses require access to the best legal services worldwide.



LEGALINK





AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Immigration Law Firm of the Year, ALB Philippine Law Awards, Asian Legal Business Magazine, 2018
- Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines (Nilo T. Divina), Asia Business Law Journal, 2018
- Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines (Alden Francis C. Gonzales), Asia Business Law Journal, 2018
- Leading 100 Firms, InterContinental Finance & Law Magazine, 2018
- Law Firm of the Year-Philippines, InterContinental Finance & Law Country Awards, 2018
- Philippine Law Firm of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2018
- 500 Leading Lawyers (Nilo T. Divina), InterContinental Finance & Law Magazine, 2017 (sole Filipino lawyer to be included in the list)
- Banking Law Firm of the Year – Philippines, Corporate LiveWire Awards, 2017
- Commercial Litigation Law Firm in the Philippines, Corporate International Magazine, 2017
- Philippine Law Firm of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2017
- Corporate Law Firm of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2017
- Managing Partner of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2017
- Investments Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines , Global Law Experts Annual Awards, 2017
- Top Tier recognition as Leading Independent Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines, M&A Today Global Rankings, 2017
- Woman Lawyer of the Year (Estrella C. Elamparo), 13th Annual ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards, Asian Legal Business, 2017
- Finalist, Regional Managing Partner of the Year Award, 13th Annual ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards, Asian Legal Business, 2017 (sole Philippine nominee)
- Finalist, Regional Litigation Law Firm of the Year Award, 13th Annual ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards, Asian Legal Business, 2017
- Top 250 Leading Firms, InterContinental Finance Magazine, 2017
- Investment Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines, Corporate International Magazine, 2017
- Corporate Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines, Corporate LiveWire Awards, 2016
- Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year, ALB Philippine Law Awards, Asian Legal Business Magazine, 2016
- Finalist, Litigation Law Firm of the Year, ALB Philippine Law Awards, Asian Legal Business Magazine, 2016
- Finalist, Arbitration Law Firm of the Year, ALB Philippine Law Awards, Asian Legal Business Magazine, 2016
- Finalist, Investments Law Firm of the Year, ALB Philippine Law Awards, Asian Legal Business Magazine, 2016
- Investment Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines, Corporate International Magazine, 2016
- Most Outstanding Independent Law Firm in the Philippines, Innovation Excellence Award, 2015
- Managing Partner of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2015
- Leading Independent Law Firm of the Year, ACQ Law Awards, 2014





NILO T. DIVINA
MANAGING PARTNER

SENIOR PARTNERS



**EDWIN
C. UY**



**ALDEN FRANCIS
C. GONZALES**



**ESTRELLA C.
ELAMPARO**



**ROBERTO
L. TAN**



**ALFONSO B.
VERZOSA**



**DARA C.
ACUSAR**



**ENRIQUE V.
DELA CRUZ, JR.**



**DANNY E.
BUNYI**

PARTNERS

Danilo N. Tungol
Arthur B. Capili
William S. Merginio
Eloisa D.V. Sy
John Michael S. Galauran
Isaiah O. Asuncion III
Floro C. Balato, Jr.
Cybill B. Uytiepo
Ian Jerry E. De Leon
Camille Khristine I. Aromas

SENIOR ASSOCIATES

Paula Danica B. Landayan
Jay-r C. Ipac
Ismael L. Sarangaya, Jr.
Lourdes Anifel B. Caspe
Ciselle Marie T. Gamu-Sisayan
Mikko Angela C. Axalan-Posio
Rhegine T. Peralta

ASSOCIATES

Jemimah Grace N. Garcia	Justin Adriel E. Ordoyo
Anna Katrina T. Singcol	Samantha Ann T. Tirthdas
Jelani Carlo H. So	Klinton M. Torralba
Elaine B. Tiu	Karina Mae A. Badua
Nasha Jemimah R. Reyes	Ninna Roem A. Bonsol
Harly Jayson U. Reyes	Christian B. delos Reyes
Krisyl M. Cancino	Ma. Jiandra Bianca F. Deslate
Jarodelyn N. Mabalot	Anna Camille C. Himala
Lorenzo Luigi T. Gayya	Hilton A. Lazo
Emma Rose J. Aguilar	Vaupetroani J. Peña
Lean Jeff F. Magsombol	Joss Allen M. Pilapil
Alwyn Faye B. Mendoza	Maria Zoelli R. Velasco

OF COUNSELS

Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoli (Ret.)
Justice Teodoro P. Regino (Ret.)
Justice Raoul V. Victorino (Ret.)
Orlando C. Casimiro

CONSULTANTS

Justice Teresita Diaz-Baldos (Ret.)
Perlita V. Ele
George E. Misa
Rene B. Gorospe
Raul R. Corro
Benito A. Cataran
Jovencito R. Zuño
Justina F. Callangan
Amado E. Tayag

CEBU OFFICE

Dara C. Acusar
Mae Elaine T. Bathan





MANAGING PARTNER



NILO T. DIVINA

MANAGING PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, criminal, and commercial litigation
- Banking and finance
- Corporate advising
- Mergers & acquisitions, take-overs, and initial public offerings
- Special projects and taxation
- Cross-border and international transactions

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Founder and Managing Partner, DivinaLaw [formerly Divina & Uy Law Office]
- Dean, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Professor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Former Member of the Board of Directors, United Coconut Planters Bank
- Former Chairman, Philippine Association of Law Schools
- Former Co-General Counsel and Chairman on Legal Education and Bar Admission, Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Former President, Philippine Association of Law Schools
- Former Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, Equitable PCI Bank

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- International Tax Law Post Graduate Diploma, Robert Kennedy College, Switzerland
- Bachelor of Laws, Magna Cum Laude and Class Valedictorian, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science, Cum Laude, Faculty of Arts and Letters, University of Santo Tomas

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines, Asia Business Law Journal, 2018
- 500 Leading Lawyers, InterContinental Finance & Law Magazine, 2017 (sole Filipino lawyer to be included in the list)
- Managing Partner of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2017
- Managing Partner of the Year, ACQ Global Awards, 2015

PUBLISHED WORKS

- Guidebook on Commercial Law (2016 edition, by Rex Bookstore)
- Handbook on Commercial Law (2010, Revised Edition; 2005 edition)



SENIOR PARTNER



EDWIN C. UY

SENIOR PARTNER

edwin.uy@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Election and public service law
- Government contracts
- Public private partnerships
- Public trusts
- Local and national legislation
- Government liaison
- Community development projects
- Stakeholder management and consensus building in public interest project negotiations and execution
- Public interest cases

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former member, House of Representatives of the Philippines
- Former Vice Governor, Province of Isabela
- Former Special Counsel, Office of the Solicitor General
- Former Trustee, Asset Privatization Trust

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Accounting, University of Santo Tomas



ALDEN FRANCIS C. GONZALES

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil and commercial litigation and arbitration
- Taxation
- Labor and employment
- Collective bargaining agreement negotiations
- Conciliation and mediation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Faculty and Bar Reviewer, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Former Managing Partner, Misa & Gonzales Law Offices
- Former Partner, Misa Castro & Associates Law Offices
- Former Tax Lawyer, Sycip Gorres Velayo and Company
- Former Auditor, Sycip Gorres Velayo and Company

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Magna Cum Laude, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude, University of the East

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines, Asia Business Law Journal, 2018





SENIOR PARTNER



ESTRELLA C. ELAMPARO

SENIOR PARTNER

estrella.elamparo@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Arbitration and Dispute Resolution
- Family Law
- Crisis Management and Communications

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel, Government Service Insurance System
- Former State Prosecutor of the Department of Justice
- Former Associate, Castillo Lamar Tan Pantaleon & San Jose
- Former Associate, Ongkiko Kalaw Manhit and Acorda Law Offices

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Arts in Health Care Ethics and Law (Chevening Scholar), University of Manchester, England
- Bachelor of Laws, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, University of the Philippines-Diliman

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Woman Lawyer of the Year 2017, Asian Legal Business



ROBERTO L. TAN

SENIOR PARTNER

roberto.tan@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate Consultancy and Tax Advisory
- Tax Advocacy

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Principal, KPMG Manabat Sanagustin & Co.
- Former Director, SCV & Co. (Ernst & Young Philippines)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Laws, Boston University, Boston, MA, U.S.A
- Bachelor of Laws, Ateneo de Manila University
- Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy, University of the Philippines-Diliman



SENIOR PARTNER



DARA C. ACUSAR

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Project finance / Special projects
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Corporate and commercial contracts
- Government contracts, including public-private partnerships
- Real estate development and contracts
- Corporate documentation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Consultant, Office of the Vice Governor of the Province of Cebu
- Former Undersecretary for Internal Management, Department of Budget and Management
- Former Finance Associate, Haynes and Boone, LLP, New York City, USA
- Former Assistant Secretary, Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel of the President of the Philippines
- Former Alternate Director, Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority
- Former Legislative Staff Officer IV, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives
- Former Consultant on Systems Management, Office of the Mayor of Cebu City
- Former Associate, Quisumbing Torres Law Offices (An Affiliate of Baker & McKenzie)
- Former Staff Auditor, Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (An Affiliate of Ernst & Young)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Laws, General Studies, with concentration in Corporate and International Economic Law, New York University School of Law
- Juris Doctor, Class Valedictorian, Ateneo de Manila School of Law
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Magna Cum Laude, University of San Carlos

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Top 2, Philippine Bar Examinations, 1999
- Top 6, Certified Public Accountants Licensure Examinations, 1994

BAR ADMISSIONS / PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Bar
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants





SENIOR PARTNER



ALFONSO B. VERZOSA

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, criminal, and commercial litigation
- Intellectual property
- Debt restructuring, risk management and compliance
- Corporate commercial practice, including corporate reorganization
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Real estate
- Insurance law
- Labor relations
- Family law
- Agrarian relations

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- General Counsel, University of Santo Tomas
- Former Litigation Department Head, Bank of the Philippine Islands

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science in Commerce, University of Santo Tomas



SENIOR PARTNER



ENRIQUE V. DELA CRUZ, JR.

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, criminal, and commercial litigation
- Election Laws
- Local government and local taxation
- Government contracts and regulations [i.e. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) schemes]
- International commercial arbitration
- International law
- Intellectual property laws
- Data privacy law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Board Member (2010 to present), 2nd District, Province of Bulacan
- Legal Counsel, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
- Secretary-General, National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL)
- Lecturer, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Lecturer, University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance Center for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG)
- Lecturer, Bulacan State University, College of Law
- Lecturer, Philippine Christian University, College of Law
- Former Managing Partner and Senior Partner, Ponce Enrile Reyes & Manalastas Law Office (2001-2016)
- Former Municipal Councilor (2001 to 2010), Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Laws, International and Comparative Business Law (with Distinction), London Metropolitan University, England (Chevening Scholar)
- Masters Course (MSc) in International Trade Law, University College London, England (Chevening Scholar)
- Masters in Public Management, Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University
- Bachelor of Laws, Third Honors, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts, major in Legal Management, University of Santo Tomas

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Dangal ng Baliwag Award (For Public Service), 2017
- Gintong Kabataan Award (Young Professional), 2007
- Ten Outstanding Councilors of The Philippines (TOCP) Award, 2007

AFFILIATIONS

- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-International Law and International Affairs Committee (ILIAC)
- Asia Society of the Philippines





SENIOR PARTNER



DANNY E. BUNYI

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate and special projects
- Banking and finance
- Trust banking and investment management

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary, Development Bank of the Philippines
- Former Chief Compliance Officer and Legal Services Group Head, Robinsons Bank
- Former Legal Counsel for Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Bank (Manila Office)
- Former Head, Legal Advisory Division, Philippine Commercial International Bank
- Former Lecturer, John Gokongwei School of Management, Ateneo de Manila University
- Former Lecturer, Trust Institute Foundation of the Philippines

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Finance for Senior Executives Program, Asian Institute of Management
- One-year Course on Trust Operations and Investment Management conducted by the Trust Institute Foundation of the Philippines (graduated with Distinction)
- Bachelor of Laws, Ateneo de Manila University
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management, major in Legal Management, Ateneo de Manila University



PARTNER



DANILO N. TUNGOL

PARTNER

danilo.tungol@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial, criminal, civil, and labor litigation
- Rehabilitation and receivership
- Prosecution of fraud cases and banking-related matters

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Managing Partner, Law Firm of Tungol and Tibayan
- Former Partner, Veto, Felizmena, Buenaventura, Tungol, Viernes, & Oloroso Law Office
- Former Bank Attorney, Equitable Banking Corporation
- Former Senior Legal Officer and Regional Attorney, National Food Authority

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science, General Course in Zoology and Psychology, University of Santo Tomas



ARTHUR B. CAPILI

PARTNER

arthur.capili@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate, criminal, and civil litigation
- General corporate housekeeping, retainer work, and special projects

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Faculty Secretary and Professor, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Former Chair, University of Santo Tomas Committee on Discipline
- Former Bank Litigation and Advisory Lawyer, Equitable PCI Bank

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts, Legal Management, University of Santo Tomas





PARTNER



WILLIAM S. MERGINIO

PARTNER

william.merginio@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, criminal, and labor litigation
- Cases with foreign elements and cross-border cases

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Head, Legal Representation Division, Department of Labor and Employment
- Former attaché, Philippine Embassy in Kuwait
- Former legal officer, National Bureau of Investigation

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts, Legal Management, University of Santo Tomas



ELOISA D.V. SY

PARTNER

eloisa.sy@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Public-private partnerships
- Government policies
- Corporate and special projects

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Deputy Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Office of the President
- Former Chief Legislative Officer, Office of Senator Benigno Aquino III

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master in Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School
- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Colegio de San Juan de Letran



PARTNER



JOHN MICHAEL S. GALAURAN

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, corporate, and criminal litigation
- Extrajudicial foreclosure and writ of possession proceedings
- Intestate and probate proceedings
- Administrative and litigation immigration services

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Senior Associate, Fortun Narvasa & Salazar
- Former Lecturer, Legal Advantage Paralegal Crash Courses
- Former Professor, Colegio de Sta. Monica

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, University of Nueva Caceres
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Ateneo de Naga University



ISAIAH O. ASUNCION III

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, corporate, and criminal litigation
- Family law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Solicitor, Office of the Solicitor General
- Faculty member, University of Santo Tomas
- Faculty member, De La Salle College of Saint Benilde

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts, Legal Management, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas





PARTNER



FLORO C. BALATO, JR.

PARTNER

floro.balato@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Immigration, naturalization, and citizenship
- Data privacy law and cyber-security issues
- Banking and corporate laws
- Local government and administrative laws
- Public international law and trans-border issues

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Senior Immigration Officer, Bureau of Immigration
- Former Manager/Lawyer, Equitable PCI Bank/Banco de Oro Universal Bank
- Former Provincial Administrator, Province of Eastern Samar
- Former Legislative Staff, House of Representatives

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Fulbright-Humphrey Fellow, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA
- Master in Public Management, Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University
- Bachelor of Laws, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences Major in Psychology, University of the Philippines-Visayas



PARTNER



CYBILL B. UYTIEPO

PARTNER
RESIDENT COUNSEL, SINGAPORE CORPORATE OFFICE
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PRACTICE AREAS

- Special projects
- Civil, criminal, and commercial litigation
- Infrastructure (engineering, procurement, and construction)
- Real estate
- Mining
- Power and energy
- Tax Advisory and advocacy
- Election law
- Social license

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Of Counsel/Partner, Cayetano Sebastian Ata Dado and Cruz Law Offices (Caselaw)
- Former Legal Consultant, Office of Senator Sergio R. Osmena III
- Former Consultant, Development Bank of the Philippines
- Former Senior Associate, Puno and Puno Law Offices
- Former Legal Consultant, Office of the Secretary of Interior and Local Government (Secondment)
- Former Associate, Cayetano Sebastian Ata Dado and Cruz Law Offices (Caselaw)
- Former Supervising Senior, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law
- Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy, Cum Laude
University of the Philippines-Diliman





PARTNER



IAN JERNY E. DE LEON

PARTNER

ian.deleon@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Labor
- Arbitration

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Professor, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Former Senior Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former professor, Philippine Christian University College of Law
- Former Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Legal Assistant, DivinaLaw

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Cum Laude, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science, Major in Legal Management, Ateneo de Manila University



CAMILLE KHRISTINE I. AROMAS

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial litigation
- Arbitration
- Corporate housekeeping
- Regulatory compliance

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Senior Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Mid-level Associate, Dispute Resolution Practice Group, Baker McKenzie
- Former Arbitration Trainee, International Arbitration Group, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
- Former Consultant, Governance in Justice Sector Reform, Asian Development Bank

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Laws, Comparative and International Dispute Resolution, Queen Mary University of London, England
- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines, College of Law
- Bachelor of Science, Economics, Minor in Psychology and Accountancy University of Philippines-Diliman



SENIOR ASSOCIATES



PAULA DANICA B. LANDAYAN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Taxation, securities, and real estate
- Corporate documentation and special projects
- Data privacy laws
- Corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, and initial public offering
- Regulatory compliance and corporate housekeeping

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Associate, Tan Venturanza Valdez
- Former Business Executive, Legend Hotels International
- Former Marketing Services Officer, NU3 Foods Corporation

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science in Tourism, Cum Laude, Asian Institute of Tourism University of the Philippines-Diliman



JAY-R C. IPAC

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

jayr.ipac@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- General litigation, trial, and appellate practice
- Copyright and trademark
- Law and technology
- Data privacy law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Professor, San Sebastian College-Recoletos, College of Law
- Instructor, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Legal Management
- Former Legal Researcher, Office of Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Catral Mendoza
- Former Legislative Attorney, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal
- Former Director II, Senate Electoral Tribunal
- Former Court Attorney VI, Office of Supreme Court Associate Justice Arturo D. Brion

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science in Legal Management, University of Santo Tomas





SENIOR ASSOCIATES



ISMAEL L. SARANGAYA, JR.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

ismael.sarangaya@divinalaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- Labor
- Criminal prosecution and defense
- Civil litigation
- Corporate litigation
- Election and administrative laws
- Arbitration and alternative dispute resolution

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Professor and Bar Reviewer, College of Law, Philippine Christian University
- Bar Reviewer, Magnificus Juris Reviews and Seminars
- Former Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Legal Assistant, DivinaLaw
- Former Professor, Bulacan State University College of Law

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, First Honorable Mention, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Arts in Legal Management, Magna Cum Laude, Bulacan State University



LOURDES ANIFEL B. CASPE

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- General counselling
- Business law and corporate
- Share purchase transactions
- Corporate documentation
- Mergers and acquisition
- Contract drafting and negotiation
- Taxation
- Estate planning
- Corporate restructuring

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Property Management and Corporate Affiliate Accountant, The Philippine American Life & General Insurance Co.
- Former Accountant, General Milling Corporation

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Civil Law, University of Santo Tomas
- Bachelor of Science, Accountancy, University of Santo Tomas



SENIOR ASSOCIATES



CISELIE MARIE GAMO-SISAYAN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Special projects
- Corporate and commercial
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Public-private partnerships
- Taxation
- Estate and trust planning
- Banking and finance

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Associate, Baniqued and Baniqued Law Office

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Bachelor of Arts, major in Management Economics, minor in Philosophy Ateneo de Manila University



MIKKO AXALAN-POSIO

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal, civil, and labor litigation
- Immigration
- Corporate and special projects

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Junior Associate, Ponce Enrile Reyes and Manalastas Law Offices
- Former Legal Intern, Office of the Solicitor General

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Cum Laude University of the Philippines-Diliman





SENIOR ASSOCIATES



RHEGINE T. PERALTA

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil and commercial litigation
- Arbitration

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Legal Assistant, DivinaLaw
- Former Associate Editor/Research Assistant, Philippine Law Register

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines-College of Law
- Bachelor of Science in Economics, Magna Cum Laude, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of the Philippines-Manila



ASSOCIATES



JEMIMAH GRACE N. GARCIA

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Criminal prosecution and defense
- Alternative dispute resolution and arbitration
- Labor
- Family law
- Local government, election, and administrative laws
- Naturalization and immigration
- Corporate rehabilitation and insolvency
- Environmental laws
- Intellectual property
- Insurance

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Professor, College of Law, Philippine Christian University
- Former Associate, Tan Concepcion & Que
- Former Research Assistant, Institute for the Administration of Justice University of the Philippines Law Center
- Former Public Relations and Media Consultant, National Irrigation Administration Office of the Administrator

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, College of Mass Communication University of the Philippines-Diliman



ANNA KATRINA T. SINGCOL

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- General Corporate Services and Special Projects
- Immigration
- Estate Planning
- Intellectual Property

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Legal Intern, Regional Trial Court (Quezon City)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Literature, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas





ASSOCIATES



JELANI CARLO H. SO

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate and commercial law
- Taxation
- Estate planning
- Mergers and acquisitions

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Junior Associate, Siguion Reyna Montecillo Ongsiako Law Offices
- Former Junior Associate, Esguerra and Blanco Law Offices

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, San Beda College of Law-Mendiola
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management, De La Salle University



ELAINE B. TIU

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal, civil, and tax litigation
- Judicial and extrajudicial settlement of estate

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Junior Associate, Carag Zaballero Llamado and Abiera Law Office
- Former Legal Researcher, The Asia Foundation (for the project Hustisyeah! Decongesting Philippine Courts)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Legal Management, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas



ASSOCIATES



NASHA JEMIMAH R. REYES

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate services
- Arbitration
- Special projects
- Foreign investments
- Taxation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Legal Extern, Office of the Solicitor General
- Former Legal Extern, Office of the Government Corporate Counsel
- Former Legal Intern, De Guzman San Diego Mejia and Hernandez Law Offices
- Former Volunteer Paralegal, Human Rights Victims' Claims Board
- Former Legal Researcher (Pilot Team), Hustisyeh! Decongesting Philippine Courts)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines College of Law
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Cum Laude
University of the Philippines-Diliman



HARLY JAYSON U. REYES

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal, civil, and corporate litigation
- Labor
- Corporate and special projects
- General tax services

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Assistant Professorial Lecturer, De La Salle University
- Former Junior Associate, Santiago Cruz & Associates Law Offices
- Former Junior Associate, Esguerra & Blanco Law Offices
- Former Senior Associate, Tax Advocacy/Advisory Division, Tax Services Group, Reyes, Tacondong & Co.
- Former Credit Analyst, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, San Beda College-Mendiola
- Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Legal Management,
Honorable Mention, De La Salle University





ASSOCIATES



KRISYL M. CANCINO

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal, civil, and corporate litigation
- Corporate and special projects
- General tax services

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Junior Associate, S. De Santos Law Offices
- Former Junior Associate, Esguerra & Blanco Law Offices
- Former Senior Associate, International Tax Services, SGV & Co.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, San Beda College-Mendiola
- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, University of the Philippines-Diliman



JARODELYN N. MABALOT

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Labor
- Criminal prosecution and defense
- Civil Litigation
- Local Government, election, and Administrative Laws

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Legal Assistant, DivinaLaw
- Former Legal Intern, Office of the City Prosecutor, Quezon City
- Former Legal Intern, Revenue District Office, Department of Finance

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Legal Management, Magna Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas



ASSOCIATES



LORENZO LUIGI T. GAYYA

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil, labor, and corporate litigation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Editor-in-Chief, The Varsitarian

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 6, Philippine Bar Exams, 2017



EMMA RUBY J. AGUILAR

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate housekeeping
- Regulatory compliance
- Special projects
- Contract drafting and review

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Municipal Link, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Former Nurse 1, Registered Nurses for Health Enhancement and Local Services
- Former Nurse 1, Municipal Health Office of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Salutatorian, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Science, Nursing, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 10, Philippine Bar Exams, 2017





ASSOCIATES



LEAN JEFF M. MAGSOMBOL

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Finance
- Special Projects
- Taxation
- Estate Planning
- Energy

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Professor, University of Santo Tomas
- Former Chair, Pre-accounting and Management Accounting, AMV College of Accountancy, University of Santo Tomas
- Former CPA Board Examination Reviewer, Center for Training and Development Inc.
- Former Experienced Audit Associate, Isla Lipana & Co.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Master in Business Administration, Las Piñas College
- Bachelor of Science, Accountancy, Magna Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 4, Certified Public Accountant Board Exam, 2010



ALWYN FAYE B. MENDOZA

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Labor and employment
- Criminal prosecution and defense
- Corporate and civil litigation
- Family law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Legal Intern, Office of the City Prosecutor, Caloocan City
- Former Trainee, Office of the Solicitor General

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, Valedictorian, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Arts, Legal Management, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters



ASSOCIATES



JUSTIN ADRIEL E. ORDOYO

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal and civil litigation
- Settlement of estates
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Intellectual property

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former Distinguished Intern, Office of Legal Aid, University of the Philippines
- Former Editor, Philippine Law Journal (Vol. 89)
- Former Intern/Youth Delegate, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Paris
- Former Language instructor, École Spéciale des Travaux Publics

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- Licence économie et gestion, Université Paris II (Assas)
- French (niveau avancé), Université Paris IV (Sorbonne)
- Bachelor of Science, Business Economics (first year), University of the Philippines-Diliman



SAMANTHA ANN T. TIRTHDAS

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial litigation
- Criminal litigation
- Regulatory compliance
- Alternative dispute resolution and arbitration
- Local government, election, and administrative laws

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Underbar Associate, DivinaLaw
- Former HR & Legal Director, CallSource Incorporated
- Former Managing Director, Auri Corporation (Bright Technologies)
- Former Law Intern, Roque & Butuyan Law Office
- Former Chief Marketing and Sales Development Consultant, Trendset Business Solutions
- Former Project Manager for Sales Strategy Development and Operations, Globe Telecoms
- Former Marketing Communications Head, Core Concept Communications

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Juris Doctor, College of Law, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- Bachelor of Arts, Broadcast Communications, Cum Laude, University of the Philippines-Diliman





ASSOCIATES



KLINTON M. TORRALBA

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal and civil litigation
- Local government, election, and administrative law
- Family law
- Settlement of estates
- Intellectual property

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former Intern, Office of Associate Justice Agnes Reyes-Carpio, Court of Appeals

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Bachelor of Laws, 3rd Honorable Mention, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law
- Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Cum Laude, University of Santo Tomas

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Top 9, Philippine Bar Exams, 2017



CEBU CORPORATE OFFICE



DARA C. ACUSAR

SENIOR PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Project finance / Special projects
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Corporate and commercial contracts
- Government contracts, including public-private partnerships
- Real estate development and contracts
- Corporate documentation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Consultant, Office of the Vice Governor of the Province of Cebu
- Former Undersecretary for Internal Management, Department of Budget and Management
- Former Finance Associate, Haynes and Boone, LLP, New York City, USA
- Former Assistant Secretary, Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel of the President of the Philippines
- Former Alternate Director, Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority
- Former Legislative Staff Officer IV, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives
- Former Consultant on Systems Management, Office of the Mayor of Cebu City
- Former Associate, Quisumbing Torres Law Offices (An Affiliate of Baker & McKenzie)
- Former Staff Auditor, Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (An Affiliate of Ernst & Young)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Master of Laws, General Studies, with concentration in Corporate and International Economic Law, New York University School of Law
- Juris Doctor, Class Valedictorian, Ateneo de Manila School of Law
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Magna Cum Laude, University of San Carlos

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Second Place, Philippine Bar Examinations, 1999
- Sixth Place, Certified Public Accountants Licensure Examinations, 1994

BAR ADMISSIONS / PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Bar
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants





CEBU CORPORATE OFFICE



MAE ELAINE T. BATHAN

RESIDENT COUNSEL, CEBU OFFICE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Corporate Law
- Civil Law
- Family Law
- Labor Law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Corporate Secretary, Norkis Group of Companies
- Assistant Dean & Law Professor University of San Jose Recoletos School of Law
- Chief of Staff to Mayor, City of Mandaue
- Radio Anchor of RMN Cebu's "Kini ang Akong Suliran"

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Post Grad Diploma LLM on International Humanitarian Law Nalsar University, Hyderabad, India
- Master of Laws, San Beda Graduate School of Law (under thesis)
- Bachelor of Laws, University of San Jose-Recoletos
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, University of San Carlos



PRACTICE AREAS

CORPORATE AND CIVIL LITIGATION

The Firm is known for its excellent track record in corporate and civil litigation and has figured in several landmark decisions that have delineated and clarified important legal concepts in corporation law and civil law. It has represented and won intra-corporate disputes on behalf of both corporate and individual clients. It has represented both creditors and debtors in corporate rehabilitation proceedings, as well as receivers in liquidation/dissolution proceedings.

The Firm also has expertise in handling the whole gamut of civil cases arising from contractual and family disputes, tort, and product liability. While these cases may take years to resolve, the Firm has been known for creative legal strategies that afford clients the most efficacious means of securing relief within the constraints of legal processes.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE

The Firm maintains an active criminal prosecution and defense practice. It counsels clients undergoing preliminary investigation or facing other governmental inquiries. Retired members of the judiciary, who serve as counsels to the Firm, are ready to assist in trials, appeals, and other court proceedings of various criminal offenses.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ARBITRATION

The Firm prefers to advocate early settlement of disputes over a prolonged legal war of attrition. Where appropriate and to reduce the costs and delays often associated with litigation, the Firm recommends the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques to bring about prompt and efficient resolution to complex legal disputes.

With respect to arbitration, it is able to assist in two ways: 1) help determine whether arbitration is a time and cost efficient way of settling a dispute; and 2) provide the expertise and resources necessary to conduct a full-fledged arbitration proceeding.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Firm's lawyers have cutting edge experience in dealing with various labor issues including matters relative to human resources development, conditions of employment, labor organization, unfair labor practices, collective bargaining agreement, strikes and lockouts, as well as post-employment issues.

The Firm helps companies draft as well as implement personnel policies and procedures which are tailor fitted to suit the client's business objectives and compliant with labor laws.





PRACTICE AREAS

Likewise, the Firm guides clients in complying with various government regulations pertaining to occupational safety and health standards and social security as well as help clients cope with labor and employment issues presented by mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and other commercial transactions.

The Firm actively assists in maintaining industrial peace in the workplace. Its lawyers are adept in negotiating fair, just, and reasonable collective bargaining agreements and effectively implementing such agreements. In all of these areas, the Firm makes every effort to meet the clients' needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

FAMILY LAW

The Firm's practice extends to providing legal assistance on issues involving family and domestic relations, and advising them on the proper and the most judicious remedies in every given situation. In its roster are lawyers who have in-depth knowledge of family law and are equipped with strong people skills and the ability to handle stressful family situations. They have the expertise and experience that are crucial in assisting clients of their various concerns which include domestic violence, petition for temporary and permanent protective orders, legal separation, annulment and declaration of nullity of marriage, property settlements, adoption, matters of paternity and filiation, and custody.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

The Firm's lawyers have had extensive dealings with various local governments in the country, such as negotiations involving local and community taxation, processing of local government permits and licenses, and real property assessment and taxation.

Also, the Firm has seasoned election lawyers who have planned and handled successful election strategies for hopeful and incumbent elective officials during the campaign period and elections. These services include conducting seminars for watchers and campaign staff, pre-election, counting of ballots, canvassing, representation in pre-proclamation controversies, and election protests.

NATURALIZATION AND IMMIGRATION

The Firm provides general legal immigration and alien registration services. It also represents foreigners who desire to be granted Filipino citizenship through judicial naturalization proceedings or the Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000. It also provides legal assistance to former natural-born Filipino citizens planning to re-acquire their citizenship under the Retention and Re-acquisition Act.



CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

PRACTICE AREAS

BANKING AND FINANCE

The Firm has extensive experience in banking and financial transactions and has worked on various securitizations, structured and project financing. In addition to structuring and negotiating treasury and trust products, the Firm also assists institutional investors on their investment management mandates and securities-lending programmes. Its comprehensive expertise in this field of practice ensures clients of outputs and results that are efficient and custom-tailored to suit each client's peculiar needs.

The Firm is likewise engaged in advisory work for corporate trustees and agency service providers in relation to the general exercise of trustee powers and discretions. It has represented both creditors and borrowers in complex and simple loan and facility syndications.

GENERAL CORPORATE SERVICES

Formation of business entities, contract drafting, review and negotiations as well as the provision of corporate secretarial and director-nominee services are some of the corporate legal services offered by the Firm. The Firm's active participation in various legal and regulatory corporate matters enables it to provide pinpoint legal advice.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Firm's expertise includes advising on and negotiating the documentation of complex corporate business ventures, leveraged and management buy-outs, mergers and acquisitions, as well as the initiation or thwarting of corporate take-overs. It likewise provides competent representation in corporate workouts, corporate rehabilitation, and debt restructurings. The Firm also handles joint venture transactions and debt and equity public offerings.

The Firm assists clients throughout all stages of a project; providing legal advice and strategies which are practical and cost-efficient. The Firm also performs extensive due diligence and suggests constructive ways to adequately protect the interests of the client.

The Firm provides innovative approaches to ensure that the clients' desired results and objectives are attained without violating the requirements laid.

INSURANCE

From small businesses to large multinationals, the Firm negotiates—and if necessary litigates—on both life and non-life insurance claims, including the preparation and review of various insurance contracts.





CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

PRACTICE AREAS

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

The Firm's merger and acquisition team has the experience and expertise in acting as counsel for either the surviving or absorbed corporation in a merger. It has assisted clients in negotiating the terms of the merger, drafting the plan and articles of the merger, obtaining regulatory approvals, securing BIR rulings on tax-free exchanges, and carrying out post-merger implementation.

The Firm also advises on a full range of deal structures from initiating and thwarting take-overs, leveraged and management buy-outs, proxy solicitations, tender offers, and divestments.

CORPORATE REHABILITATION AND INSOLVENCY

The Firm is skilled in providing practical and commercial advice on how to deal with corporate rehabilitation and insolvency. It has also been involved in major litigations representing the creditor or the financially distressed debtor. A significant number of cases which resulted in success for the Firm's clients now form part of Philippines jurisprudence.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

The Firm's vast experience in structuring foreign investments stems from its involvement in various transactions for different industries, e.g., power, financial, retail, steel, and realty.

The Firm's investment services include setting up offshore companies; the documentation of fixed rate corporate notes, fixed rate note sub participations, asset-backed securities, convertible bonds, trade finance facilities and debt assignments; international swaps and derivatives (schedule and transactions); and registration, incorporation and capitalization of representative and branch offices.

POWER GENERATION AND ENERGY (OIL, GAS, AND PETROLEUM)

The Firm caters to the different legal and regulatory needs of various oil and gas industry players by providing the necessary legal assistance and advice on various regulatory requirements, pricing matters, energy project development, tax-related issues, as well as securing government permits, approvals, and endorsements.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Firm's environmental law practice embraces the fields of environmental management and regulations, securing permits, clearances and licenses; special liaisons with state regulatory agencies and local government units; land use and titling, and exploration of natural resources.



CORPORATE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

PRACTICE AREAS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Firm is well versed in the legal developments pertaining to the Philippine information technology sector. Hence, it is able to provide advice on the implementation of electronic commercial transactions. It has been involved in the negotiation and drafting of information technology contracts and technology transfer arrangements. The Firm likewise acts as adviser to many leading IT companies and interconnection service providers in the country.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Firm provides a wide array of legal services for the registration, protection and enforcement of patents, trademarks, and copyrights. It facilitates application and registration of intellectual property rights and extends legal assistance and support in the prosecution of copyright infringement, counterfeiting, unfair competition, and other forms of intellectual property rights violations. In this regard, the Firm regularly appears before lower and appellate courts, as well as the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME LAW

The Firm handles negotiations and litigation work involving loss of cargo and property, bills of lading claims, general and particular average claims, arrest of vessels and cargo, insurance claims involving partial or total loss, liability for repairs, salvage, towage, collision, claims of employees and crew members against the vessel, and other maritime accidents.

The Firm also assists in the preparation of regulatory documentation of vessels, including registration and licensing, as well as various maritime contracts such as bills of lading, charter parties, and contracts for the purchase, sale, charter, financing, and construction of ocean-going vessels.





TAXATION AND ESTATE PLANNING

PRACTICE AREAS

TAXATION

The Firm assists in ensuring compliance with tax laws, minimizing tax implications, and rendering tax planning advice and opinions on various commercial and financial matters. The Firm likewise assists clients in securing tax rulings, opinions and clearances from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and other appropriate agencies. It also handles tax litigation before Philippine Courts. In addition, the Firm handles tax assessments, tax protests, and claims for refund.

ESTATE PLANNING

The Firm has been involved in all aspects of estate planning including the drafting of wills, the appointment of executors, and the distribution of assets to the beneficiaries. In this regard, the Firm always endeavors to provide the most cost-efficient advice that would inure to the benefit of the estate and its beneficiaries.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

PRACTICE AREAS

CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Through the collaborative efforts of the different departments of the Firm, DivinaLaw has developed complementary programs for risk and crisis management.

Risk management involves a thorough review of possible regulatory and legal risks of a client. Documents with legal implications are subjected to audit and proposed modifications, when applicable, are made. Red flags are identified and addressed in close coordination with management to avoid potential crisis situations.

The Firm can likewise update clients on all issuances affecting its business and provide briefings or trainings to key personnel on issuances that affect them.

For crisis management, the Firm has a team composed of its in-house public relations experts and lawyers adept at handling crisis situations. Crisis management has not traditionally been thought of as a separate field of specialization for private practitioners. However, with the rising prominence of social media, netizen journalism, recent changes in technology and the advent of the digital space, the firm took a bold move to familiarize itself with crisis situations that require not just purely legal responses but have public relations dimension as well.

Before a crisis even occurs, DivinaLaw's crisis management team helps its client craft a crisis management plan. Once the crisis occurs, DivinaLaw's crisis management team interfaces with the client's management, particularly officers from the operating unit concerned to conduct post crisis fact finding; provide swift response to stem the crisis or minimize damage; and recommend short and long term solutions to management.

The team monitors and "controls" information that comes out; crafts and disseminates message for the stakeholders and the public; and proceeds to repair any damage to public image and assure stakeholders that recovery is underway.

From crisis management planning to actual implementation, DivinaLaw has been able to assist its clients in situations of potential or actual crisis, both from legal standpoint and PR standpoint.





LEGAL EDUCATION AND POLICY REFORM

PRACTICE AREAS

LEGAL EDUCATION AND POLICY REFORM

Part of the services the Firm renders to clients is the conduct of trainings and seminars on various topics within their areas of concern. Due to increasing clamor, however, the Firm has begun opening its doors to the public, especially on current legal developments. It is in response to this need that the Firm has decided to institutionalize its Legal Education arm.

As lawyers steeped in legal practice, the Firm is in an ideal position to help educate its clients and the public on various legal topics and developments. Fostering a better grasp and appreciation of laws and regulations ensures better compliance on the part of stakeholders. Thus, legal education has an important CSR dimension.

Policy reform was a logical next step. An acute understanding of existing laws and regulations is necessary to be able to propose meaningful legislative changes or reform measures for policy making agencies.

As practitioners, the Firm's lawyers often encounter loopholes or areas that need improvement or enhancement in our laws and regulations. There are also many instances when a client's problems can best be addressed by legislation or policy reform. The Firm has a competent and experienced team that can draft policy measures and proposed legislations which can be brought to the attention of the pertinent governmental bodies.

The Firm follows through by providing the necessary research or other information that will help policymakers act on the proposed changes. Apart from providing longer term solutions to clients' problems, the Firm's policy reform work also serves as an avenue for lawyers to pursue their advocacies such as consumer protection, women's issues, etc.



CONTACT

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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DIVINALAW
Dynamic Lawyering