

## Community Service ♦ Law—IMELDA ARGEL



Attorney-at-Law in New York and in the Philippines

Solicitor in the High Court of Australia and in

New South Wales

Registered Migration Agent

Master of Laws, University of Sydney, 1995

Graduate Diploma in Practical Legal Training, New  
South Wales College of Law

Bachelor of Laws, UP, 1970

Bachelor of Arts (with distinction), St. Theresa's College, Manila

She's legally yours. Imelda Argel's exemplary legal credentials is unparalleled by any Filipino legal practitioner in New South Wales.

Grounded with a law degree from the UP College of Law, Master of Laws from the University of Sydney, and an exemption from the New York State bar, mean she is able to practice law in three countries – USA, Philippines and Australia.

Prior to her arrival in Australia, Imelda had a flourishing law practice in the Philippines encompassing foreign investment, corporate finance, government relations, commercial law and contracts. Her most notable accomplishment was her involvement in the drafting and negotiation of the Turnkey Contract for the first Metro Manila Light Railway Transit (Phase 1 – Baclaran Line).

In Australia, Imelda has surmounted every challenge that came her way and has gone on to build a thriving practice in a multicultural environment, focusing on migration and property law. Despite the ever-changing Migration legislation, she has maintained a success rate of 90% for visa approvals. She has also managed to obtain the most number of working visas for Filipino nurses. Backed by such statistics, she was appointed by the Migration Agents Registration Authority as an evaluator of the mandatory seminars for registered migration agents.

Guided by her own initiative, Argel's submission to the Australian Government for review of the "The Philippine Country Education Profile", has led to the recognition of Filipino qualifications. Passing the Professional Regulatory Commission Board (PRC) licensure examinations in the Philippines is now recognised as comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree.

Most recently, she clinched the role as a TAFE NSW representative to the Philippines and has established in record time, partnerships with five Philippine educational institutions. This alliance allows students in the Philippines to enroll in TAFE-NSW courses as provided by the partnering Philippine institution. Filipino students therefore are able to obtain the equivalent of Australian qualifications at a third of the overseas tuition fees cost, and have better migration opportunities. Through the Filipino Migrants Forum, she assists in the resettlement of her clients who are new migrants or are on a working visa. She continually provides information and updates on migration issues via the media, and migration seminars here and in the Philippines.

Her law firm also provides the much needed internship and training for law students, most of whom gain employment with prominent Sydney law firms.

In her capacity as president of UPAAA-NSW (1998-2000), and with the intention of promoting the "taste of the Philippines", she initiated the production and subsequent publication of a Filipino Cookbook. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook were donated to the University of the Philippines.

Rightly so, Imelda was awarded the first NSW Filipino Australian Women's Achievement Award (FAWAA) for Corporate Practice / Entrepreneurship in 2006, an honour most deserved.

Undoubtedly, Imelda will continue to push beyond the boundaries of what is possible to obtain exemplary results, in the service of the Filipino community.