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John R. De La Merced is a partner at the corporate and business litigation firm Stubbs Alderton & Markiles LLP. He aids high-profile clients in complex business litigation matters which include commercial, intellectual property and real estate disputes throughout all stages of the pre-litigation and litigation process up to and including trial. He joined the firm in 2017.

John R. De La Merced

"I'm the first in my family to go to law school," De La Merced said. "I got interested during high school debates. I felt the skills would translate, so I looked for a career as a litigator."

He is a former president of the UCLA Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and of the Philippine American Bar Association, the oldest and largest local association of Filipino-American lawyers in the United States. He continues to serve on the boards of both organizations.

After graduating from UCLA School of Law, he served externships for Judge R. Bruce Minto of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and for S. James Otero, then of the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

"Extremely useful," he said of those jobs. "To see how the courts really work at the state and federal levels under the pressure of budgets and caseloads was eye-opening. It was also impressive to see how much care and attention judges give every case, making sure everyone receives due process."

In a current case at Stubbs Alderton, De La Merced represents Singapore Airlines Ltd. He obtained for his client

state recognition or "domestication" of foreign judgments totaling \$7.145 million, using California's Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act. *Singapore Airlines Ltd. v. CSDS Aircraft Sales & Leasing Inc.*, 23TRCP00246 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed June 13, 2023).

"Singapore Airlines litigated this case in Singapore courts for years and prevailed there against this California company, and they were looking to domesticate the judgment," De La Merced said. "We were able to obtain summary judgment after demonstrating that the proceedings in Singapore were fair and proper — even though they opposed us every step of the way."

The ruling, handed down in May 2024, makes collection of the judgment fully enforceable, De La Merced said. "But they haven't paid it yet, and the time to appeal has expired. So now we are in the enforcement phase of the litigation. And interest is accruing."

De La Merced has cases in progress in Michigan and New York. "I appreciate how this firm litigates matters nationally. That makes this a great practice with varieties of subject matter to learn about. I'm glad I made the move here."