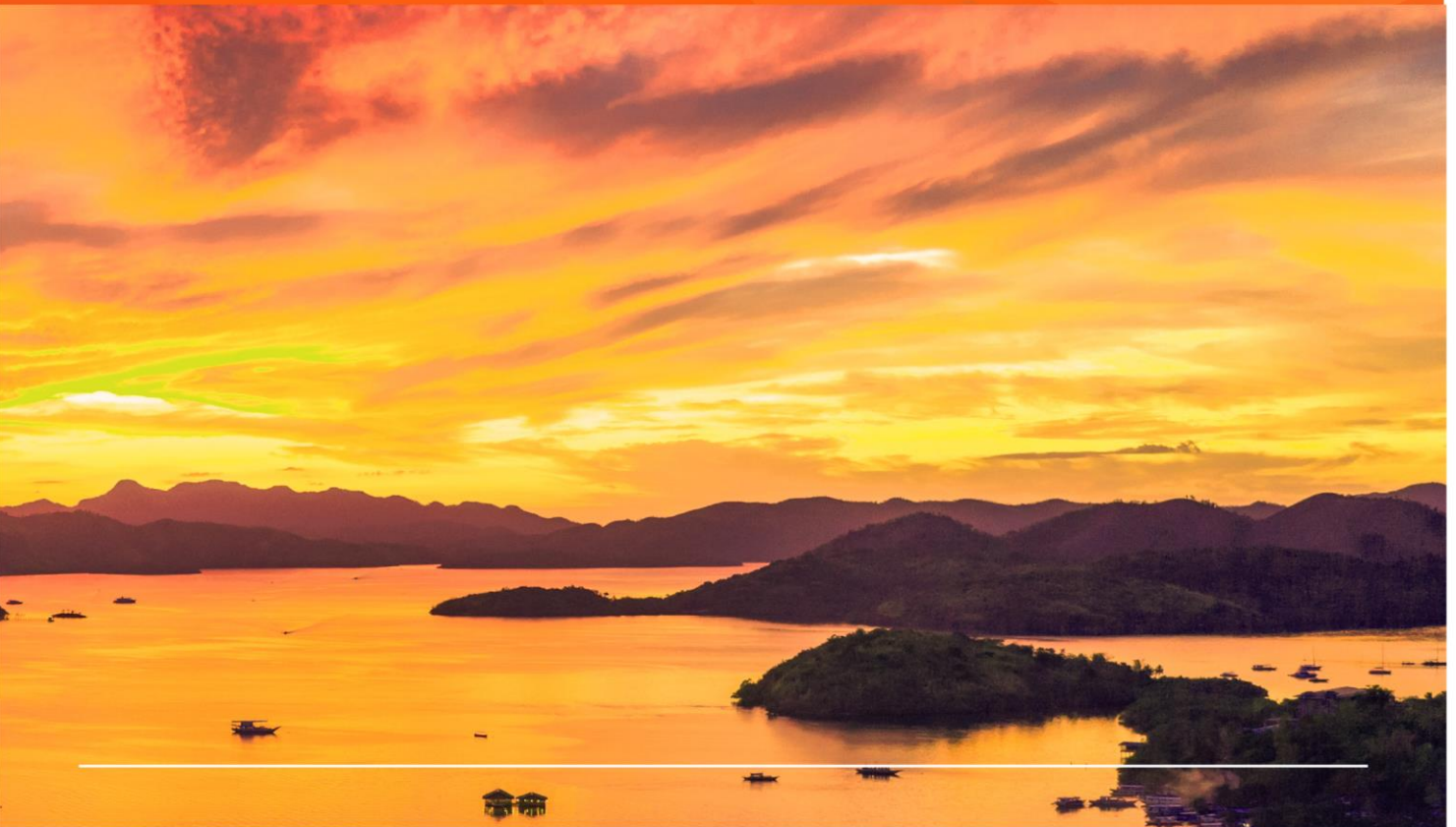


# Regional Round-Up 2024: Philippines



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# Introduction

Throughout the year, we have been keeping you up to date on noteworthy developments across the region with our Regional Round-up Publications. As we enter 2025, we are pleased to share with you our *2024 year-in-review of the Regional Round-up* for our Regional Offices in the Rajah & Tann Asia network.

In each jurisdiction, we recount the key milestones in the path that has been travelled in 2024, as well as consider the terrain of the road that lies ahead in 2025. In the "**Looking Back: 2024**" section, we take stock of the past year and highlight the key legal and regulatory developments affecting each jurisdiction in 2024. In the "**Gazing Into: 2025**" section, we look ahead to some key areas of development that you should take note of in the year to come, referencing the legal and business trends shaping up potential legislative and regulatory changes in each jurisdiction.

We hope that this year-in-review edition of the Regional Round-up provides some perspective and insight into the legal landscape of the jurisdictions across the region. As always, please feel free to contact our lawyers in our Regional Offices if you have any queries or for further discussions.

Please click on the links below to access the full collection of our country-specific *2024 year-in-review of the Regional Round-up*:

- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Laos](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Myanmar](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Vietnam](#)

## Looking Back: 2024

In 2024, the Philippines made notable progress in developing new standards and procedures across various legal domains to address contemporary challenges. In the areas of **intellectual property ("IP") law** and **competition law**, relevant agencies issued guidelines outlining appropriate remedies to ensure the effective implementation of IP and competition laws. Additionally, measures were enacted to enhance the Philippines' **Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism framework**.

Summaries of the key developments relating to the above areas are provided below.



### Data Protection - NPC's Advisory on AI and Data Privacy: Ensuring Compliance with the Data Privacy Laws for AI Systems

On 19 December 2024, the National Privacy Commission ("**NPC**") released Advisory No. 2024-04 ("**Advisory**") on the application of the Data Privacy Act of 2012, its implementing rules and regulations, and other NPC issuances to artificial intelligence ("**AI**") systems processing personal data. The Advisory expressly mandates Personal Information Controllers and their Personal Information Processors to adhere to the general privacy principles, uphold the rights of the data subjects, determine the appropriate lawful basis for processing, and implement security measures when deploying AI systems. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Intellectual Property - IPOPHL Issues Rules of Procedure on the Resolution of Actions Without Provisional Remedies in Intellectual Property Cases with Delimited Damages

On 27 November 2024, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines ("**IPOPHL**") issued the Rules of Procedure on the Resolution of Actions Without Provisional Remedies in Intellectual Property Cases with Delimited Damages ("**RAPID Rules**"), which apply to cases involving claims for damages between ₱200,000 (approx. US\$3,600) and ₱500,000 (approx. US\$9,000), with no provisional remedies sought. As the name suggests, the RAPID Rules are designed to expedite the resolution of administrative IP cases. Under these rules, pleadings can be filed electronically, hearings may be conducted via online conferencing if both parties agree, and substantial evidence is deemed sufficient to prove a fact. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Competition & Antitrust - PCC Issues Guidelines on Merger Remedies

On 1 July 2024, the Philippine Competition Commission ("**PCC**") published the Guidelines on Merger Remedies ("**Merger Guidelines**") following the increase in thresholds for mandatory merger notification. The Merger Guidelines explain PCC's approach in recommending remedies for mergers and acquisitions that are found to likely result in substantial prevention, restriction, or lessening of competition (SLC) in the

identified relevant markets. The Guidelines describe, among others, the types of merger remedies, the criteria for assessing these remedies, the implementation of these remedies, and monitoring of compliance with the remedies. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Energy - DOE Introduces Policy and Framework for Hydrogen Utilisation in the Philippines

On 12 January 2024, the Department of Energy ("DOE") issued Department Circular No. DC2024-01-001, or the "Hydrogen Energy Guidelines" ("**Hydrogen Guidelines**") to establish the national policy, framework, and roadmap for hydrogen energy development in the Philippines. The Hydrogen Guidelines cover activities related to hydrogen projects, from research and production to disposal, while offering fiscal and nonfiscal incentives to encourage hydrogen projects in the country. The Hydrogen Guidelines aim to achieve energy security, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, and improved access to financing and investments. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Anti-Money Laundering - AML Council Strengthens Philippines' Position Against Money Laundering

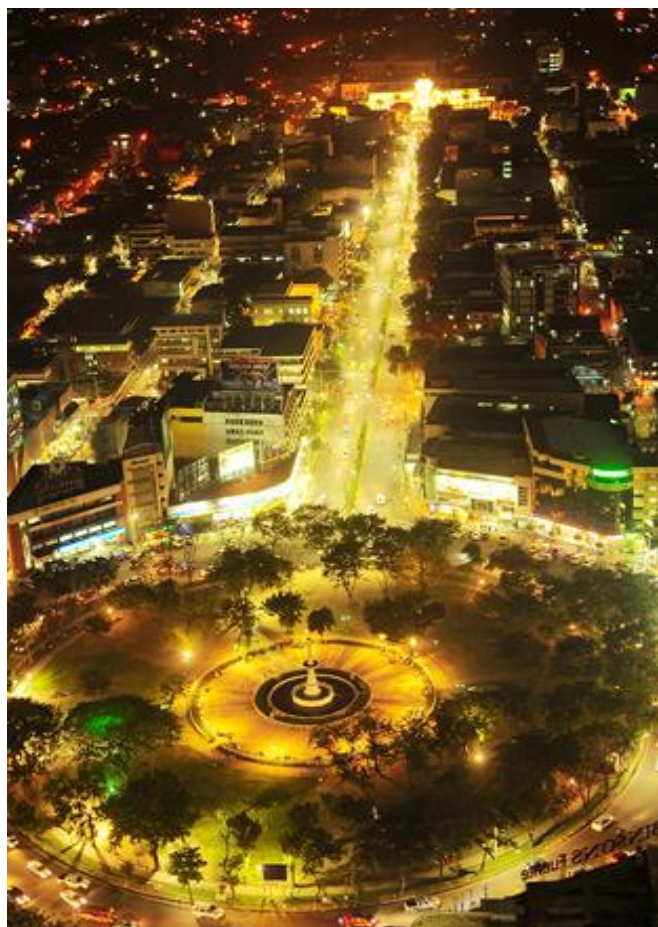
On 7 March 2024, the Anti-Money Laundering Council proposed regulatory actions for the implementing rules and regulations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act and the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012. These are intended to address the remaining strategic deficiencies noted in the Mutual Evaluation Reports pertaining to the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism framework and thereby remove the Philippines from the "Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring", commonly known as the 'grey list' of global money laundering for 2024.

Further, on 29 April 2024, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issued Circular No. 1193 which amends the current risk reporting and notification requirements. These requirements cover data and information on significant risks arising from money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Gazing Into: 2025

The Philippines is actively advancing legal innovations across various sectors. To enhance data privacy in cross-border data flows, the country is collaborating with other nations to establish **cross-border privacy rules**. In the area of **intellectual property ("IP") law**, the Philippines is taking proactive measures to educate its citizens about IP rights. Additionally, the Philippine judiciary is revising **rules of criminal procedure** as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen and improve the judicial system. Lastly, the Philippines is utilising **technology** to encourage **voter participation** and **active engagement in public affairs**.

Summaries of the key developments relating to the above areas are provided below.



### Data Privacy - Philippines Takes Steps in Strengthening Data Protection

The National Privacy Commission ("**NPC**") has undertaken various efforts to strengthen data protection, data privacy, and security in cross-border data flow. With the aim of providing a more coordinated global response to the importance of data protection, NPC collaborated with the Personal Information Protection Commission of the Republic of Korea and will host the 2025 Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules Workshop. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Capital Markets - Congress Proposes House Bill No. 9277 to Pave Way for More Competitive Capital Markets

On 5 March 2024, the House of Representatives approved House Bill No. 9277 which proposes several amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code, including reducing taxes on stock transactions from 0.6% to 0.1% and lowering the tax on dividends earned by foreign non-residents from 25% to 10%. The proposed amendments seek to attract investments, drive economic activity, and foster the country's capital market growth. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Intellectual Property - IPOPHL Seeks IP Education Integration in Basic Education

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines ("**IPOPHL**") seeks to collaborate with the Department of Education to integrate IP education into the basic education curriculum, cultivating a culture of IP respect and appreciation among younger generations. This initiative extends to partnerships with universities, colleges, research institutions, and potentially, the Philippine Regulation Commission with the possibility of including IP topics in the licensure examinations for teachers. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Dispute Resolution - Supreme Court Seeks to Modernise the Rules of Criminal Procedure

In line with the Supreme Court's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations, the Court is revisiting the criminal procedural rules to simplify court processes and proceedings, making them more accessible and

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understandable to the general public. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Real Estate - House of Representatives, Senate Approve Separate Bills Seeking to Amend the 31-year old Investors' Lease Act

On 17 December 2024, the House of Representatives approved on third and final reading House Bill No. 10755 which aims to amend Republic Act No. 7652, otherwise known as the Investors' Lease Act. The proposed amendments in the bill seek to encourage foreign investments and ensure the reliability of investors' lease contracts to provide a stable environment for foreign investments. The key proposed amendment increases the maximum threshold for the lease of private lands by foreign investors in the Philippines to 99 years, which was previously set at 50 years, renewable once for a period not exceeding 25 years. The Senate had earlier approved its own version of the bill on 16 December 2024. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Technology - Internet Voting Set for 2025 Midterm Polls

The country will conduct its first-ever internet voting for the 2025 National and Local Elections in 76 different foreign service posts. Filipinos abroad can cast their votes via the Commission on Election's Online Voting and Counting System. This will benefit around one million Filipinos abroad who are not disqualified from voting, as they can do so in the comfort of their homes by using any electronic device capable of accessing the internet. The actual voting period will be from 13 April to 12 May 2025. Click [here](#) for more information.

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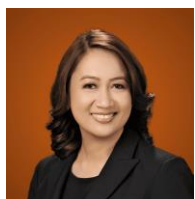
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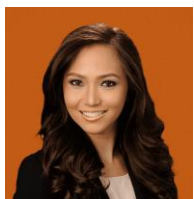
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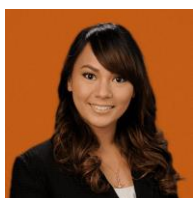
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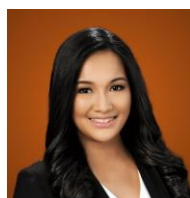
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