

## LINDA A. WELLS

Linda Wells is the Director of the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), a division of the Department of Commerce, Office of the General Counsel, that assists the government, legal and business communities of countries in economic transition, including Nigeria, Vietnam, Egypt and the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. CLDP programs are designed to foster development of policies, laws and skills needed to expand market-driven trade and investment in those countries. CLDP provides advisors to host government organizations, sponsors training for government officials, law professors and lawyers from our host countries, and provides other consultative support services.

Prior to becoming the first Director of the CLDP in February of 1992, Ms. Wells was Senior Commercial Counsel of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an independent agency of the United States Government that finances and insures private US investment in developing economies.

Ms. Wells was associated with White & Case, an international law firm based in New York, before joining OPIC. A member of the corporate department in the firm's Washington, DC, office, she specialized in corporate and financial transactions.

Ms. Wells received her law degree in 1983 from the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, where she was the Executive Editor of the *Journal of International Business Law*. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science, with an emphasis in Latin American Politics, from the University of Southern California. She speaks frequently at legal and business programs on various topics including international finance, trade and investment issues, legal and political reforms in formerly non-market economies and US Government efforts to promote international trade and investment.

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