

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Ida Abbott, principal of Ida Abbott Consulting, is a leader in the field of lawyers' professional development. Ida works with law firms, health care organizations, corporations, and professional associations worldwide, specializing in the management, development and retention of professional talent. She has 30 years of experience in law practice and legal consulting, and is a Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management.

Ida writes extensively about the legal profession. Her books include *Lawyers' Professional Development: The Legal Employer's Comprehensive Guide*; *The Lawyer's Guide to Mentoring*; *Mentoring Across Differences: A Guide to Cross-Gender and Cross-Race Mentoring*; and *Developing Legal Talent: Best Practices in Professional Development for Law Firms*. Her electronic newsletter, *Management Solutions*, can be found on her website, www.IdaAbbott.com. Ida has been featured and quoted in numerous publications and is a popular speaker at national and international professional conferences.

Before starting her consulting practice in 1995, Ida specialized in complex litigation at a large international law firm, where she also acted as a private and court-appointed mediator and arbitrator and presided over jury trials as a judge pro tempore for the San Francisco Superior Court. Ida is a founding member and past board member of the Professional Development Consortium, an international association dedicated to in-house professional development of lawyers. She has served as Chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco Law Practice Management Section, on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of California Law Practice Management and Technology Section, and on the State Bar of California Committee on Women in the Law.

Ida holds an A.B. from Smith College, an M.A. from the University of Miami, and a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law.