

EY Law Japan Team Members

EY Law Co.

As of January 2025

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Dan Matsuda
Managing Partner

Background

Dan Matsuda is the Managing Partner of EY Law Co. He has over 20 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). Before joining EY Law in April 2022, he worked at a major Japanese law firm and an international law firm.

Dan advises Japanese clients in the renewable energy, medical devices, food products and petrochemical products sectors on cross-border M&A/investment projects and business conflicts overseas. He also advises foreign companies on Japanese compliance and regulatory matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Financial services law
- Sustainability legal services
- Corporate and commercial law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2000)
- Admitted in New York

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Advising Japanese companies on outbound acquisitions and investments (relating to medical devices, energy and renewable energy, chemicals, foods and other consumer products)
- Advising international companies for entering the Japanese market (relating to electric power retail, power generation business, acquiring and credit card industry, payment service and money transfer service)
- Advising Japanese companies on restructuring and closure of foreign operations
- Advising Japanese subsidiaries of foreign companies on group reorganizations
- Advising Japanese companies on business conflicts overseas.
- Advising Japanese clients on overseas cartel investigation and disputes (including leniency procedures)
- Advising on syndicate loans and other financial transactions



Takahiro Tsumagari
Partner

Background

Takahiro Tsumagari has over 25 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). Throughout his career, he has worked at local Japanese law firms and for a U.S. based law firm's Los Angeles and Tokyo offices as a partner. He has deep experience advising and representing many leading international and Japanese companies on cross border and domestic M&A, business partnerships, structured finance matters and real estate developments. He also advises on cross border antitrust, international lawsuits and general corporate matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Financial services law
- Private law
- Real estate
- Corporate and commercial law
- Dispute resolution
- Labor and employment law
- Antitrust and competition law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (1999)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Advising foreign and domestic companies and funds on cross-border M&A transactions and business acquisitions
- Advising bank syndicate in relation to its non-recourse securitizable loans secured by real property and non-performing loan portfolios in Japan, and underwriting bonds issued by TMKs under an indemnity entrustment structure
- Advising prominent financial advisor and foreign/domestic institutional investors with regards to a sale and leaseback transaction in respect of real property valued at over JPY100 billion and the acquisition of a major domestic hotel
- Advising foreign/domestic companies and financial institutions in relation to finance related laws and regulations such as Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (FIEA) and Banking Act
- Advising domestic companies in relation to joint ventures, acquisition of real estate and investment in local production in India, Vietnam and Myanmar by prominent global companies
- Advising domestic medical device/drug companies on IPO matters, disputes related to intellectual property and licensing
- Advising subsidiaries of foreign companies in Japan and Japanese companies concerning matters related to personnel and labor affairs, including dismissals, demotions, wage system changes, mental health issues, labor accidents, and claims for payment of overtime

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Takahiko Itoh

Partner

Background

Takahiko Itoh joined EY in 2017. He has over 20 years experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney), including 4 years as a judge. He advises Japanese and foreign companies in a broad range of areas, including transactional law, corporate transformation, antitrust, and competition law. In addition, he is active in helping start-ups in the IT and life sciences sectors.

Main Practice Areas

- Startup law
- Transaction law
- Corporate and commercial law
- Labor and employment law
- Digital law
- Corporate transformation law
- Antitrust and competition law
- Dispute resolution

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2003)
- Admitted in New York

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Start-up: Advising on capitalization strategies and fund raising; drafting agreements and advising on regulatory issues, including matters with cross-boarder aspects
- Regulatory: Conducting legal research on telecommunications regulations, financial regulations including payment services, and data protection laws and data transfer regulations for numerous countries across Europe, US, Asia, and Africa, on behalf of major telecommunications companies and leading automobile manufacturers
- M&A: Supporting domestic, out-bound and in-bound M&A transactions, including due diligence, share purchase agreements and related agreements and application for regulatory approvals.
- Antitrust/Competition: Advising on cartels, unfair trade practices and merger control, internal compliance and information control, as well as internal investigations and dealing with authorities
- Joint venture and alliance: Advising on domestic and cross-border joint ventures/alliances, in particular, alliances between large companies and start-ups



Kohei Nakajima

Partner

Background

Kohei Nakajima has more than 15 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney) and has been advising Japanese and foreign clients in a wide range of areas, including transactions, antitrust/competition and general corporate matters, leveraging his prior experience at a domestic law firm, foreign law firm and at the Japan Fair Trade Commission.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Antitrust and competition law
- Corporate and commercial law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2007)
- Admitted in New York

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Advising multinational clients on domestic M&A deals, foreign transactions by Japanese companies (outbound), and domestic transactions by foreign companies (inbound)
- Advising clients on the implementation of legal due diligence, legal advice on structuring, drafting and reviewing share purchase agreements and other transactional agreements
- Advising clients on their domestic and/or international corporate reorganizations
- Advising multinational clients on merger filings
- Advising clients in government investigations and reviews by the Japan Federal Trade Commission and foreign competition agencies

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Team members - EY Law Japan



Yoshitake Masuda

Associate Partner

Background

Yoshitake Masuda has over 25 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). Throughout his career Yoshitake has worked at both foreign and Japanese law firms handling a wide range of legal matters focused on international and domestic business transactions, including M&A, joint ventures, and strategic alliances. He has also served as an in-house lawyer for a general trading company and an auditor for a public company.

Main Practice Areas

- Digital law
- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Corporate and commercial law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (1996)
- Admitted in New York
- MBA, McGill University

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- M&A between Japanese companies, between Japanese companies and foreign companies/businesses (outbound deals), and between foreign companies and Japanese companies/businesses (inbound deals)
- Joint ventures and other business alliances between Japanese companies and between Japanese companies and foreign companies
- Intellectual property agreements, including license agreements and joint research and development agreements, and commercial transaction agreements, including international sales agreements and distribution agreements
- Advising on legal aspects of e-commerce and web business, including drafting and reviewing terms and conditions and privacy policy
- Compliance and corporate governance, including laws and guidelines related to technology and life sciences, for companies conducting business in Japan
- Merger filings to the Japan Federal Trade Commission and foreign competition authorities



Junya Kubota

Associate Partner

Background

Junya Kubota has more than 15 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). He has substantial experience in advising and supporting many leading international and Japanese clients, mainly on labor and employment, and general corporate matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Labor and employment law
- Corporate and commercial law
- Dispute resolution

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2006)
- Admitted in New York

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Individual employment matters (for employers)
- Preparing employment-related contracts and internal regulations
- Dismissals
- Non-compete agreements with employees
- Legal due diligence from employment law perspective in M&A transactions
- Change of working conditions upon M&A transactions (post-merger integration)
- Employment issues upon office closure
- Collective labor matters (for employers)
- Issues relating to labor unions (including general unions)
- General corporate and transactions
- Preparing various types of commercial transaction contracts

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Paul Wong
Associate Partner

Background

Paul Wong has nearly 30 years of experience, working in the US and throughout Asia, including Hong Kong, Japan, China and Singapore. His practice focuses on corporate and commercial transactions.

He represents clients on cross-border M&A and divestments, joint ventures, securities and derivatives transactions, and strategic investments throughout Asia Pacific. Paul also brings extensive corporate, securities and M&A experience in the US with startups and VCs in the tech sector. He has significant experience advising financial institutions and investments advisers and managers on licensing, fund formations, and various regulatory and compliance matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Corporate and commercial law
- Financial services law

Qualifications

- Registered in Japan as: *gaikokuho jimusho bengoshi* (registered foreign lawyer) (2008-2011 and 2019-present)
- Admitted in California and Minnesota

Languages

- English

Experience

- M&A: advising numerous public and private companies in various industries in both within the US and in cross border M&A transactions
- Investment funds: advising sponsors and institutional investors in connection the formation, capital raising and restructuring of private investments funds, such as hedge funds, infrastructure funds and private equity funds, representing fund sponsors and others in connection with a broad range of transactions, and advising on various regulatory and compliance matters
- Securities: advising numerous companies in initial and secondary public offerings of equity and debt securities as well as private placement of equity and debt securities and representing venture capitalists and emerging growth companies in venture financings
- Derivatives: advising global financial institutions (as both external and internal legal counsel) with respect to various derivatives and structured finance transactions
- Financial regulations: advising global banks and investment managers on various regulatory and compliance issues, such Dodd-Frank, EMIR, MIFID 2, EU Bank Resolution and Recovery Directive, UK Stay, margin reform and trade reporting
- General corporate matters: advising clients on general corporate and securities matters and general business counseling



Eri Maeda
Associate Partner

Background

Prior to joining EY Law, Eri Maeda began her career at a major Japanese law firm in 2007, and from 2011, she served in the legal and strategic planning departments of a major Japanese chemical manufacturer, the legal department of a U.S.-based pharmaceutical company, and as Lead Legal Counsel of EY Strategy & Consulting Co. She brings over 10 years of experience in the legal and strategic planning departments of private companies, including time at a US company and as an executive at an Indian subsidiary.

Eri provides consulting services that integrate legal and management perspectives. Her work includes support for strengthening legal and compliance functions, intellectual property and intangible asset strategy planning, governance structure development and disclosure support, as well as evaluating and enhancing the effectiveness of group governance frameworks. She is also involved in assessing and improving the effectiveness of group compliance systems and activities, and in providing ALSP (outsourced contract review services).

Main Practice Areas

- Legal function consulting
- Legal managed services

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2007)
- Admitted in New York
- MBA, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David
- CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Publications

- Eri has authored many books/articles/papers in various publications on topics such as PMI, M&A due diligence, compliance, anti-bribery programs, group governance, legal risk management, and the strategic enhancement of legal functions.

Experience

- Analysis and evaluation of group-wide legal and compliance functions and organizational operations for major domestic companies (both in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries), followed by proposals for improvement and support for the design and implementation of optimized frameworks, as well as benchmarking studies of legal and compliance frameworks of other companies.
- Analysis and evaluation of group governance structures by functional areas (such as legal, IT, human resources, accounting and finance, procurement, sales, etc.) for major domestic manufacturing companies, followed by proposals for improvement and support for the development of governance frameworks.
- Inventory and analysis of the current state of intellectual property and intangible asset management for major domestic retail companies, financial institutions, and other industries, followed by proposals for improvement; inventory and analysis of the current utilization of intellectual property and intangible assets, and support for the formulation of strategies for the enhancement of their utilization.

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Masashi Shimada
Senior Manager

Background

Masashi Shimada began his career at a domestic law firm in 2010 and in 2013 he transitioned to become an in-house counsel for a major Japanese energy company. Masashi relocated to Australia in 2018 and worked at leading Australian law firms. He has substantial experience advising clients on energy projects, M&A, joint ventures, and international transactions.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate and commercial law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2009)
- Admitted in New South Wales, Australia
- Juris Doctor, University of New South Wales

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Overseas energy-related projects (LNG, coal, hydrogen, renewable energy, etc.)
- M&A transactions between Japanese companies and overseas companies/businesses (outbound deals)
- Joint ventures and other business alliances between Japanese and overseas companies
- English-language contracts, including international sales and commercial agreements
- General corporate and commercial matters, including drafting and review of various contracts
- Commercial and labor related litigation, representing domestic and international companies



Megumi Kawatani
Senior Manager

Background

Megumi Kawatani has been advising many Japanese and foreign companies on domestic and cross-border M&A deals and commercial and general corporate matters. Prior to joining EY Law in 2024, Megumi worked for a major Japanese law firm, then for an international law firm and secondments with a governmental organization and a private company in the energy sector. She earned a MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment and has deep knowledge in ESG and sustainability sector.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate and commercial law
- Sustainability legal services

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2012)
- Admitted in New York
- Admitted in England and Wales

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Domestic, inbound, and outbound M&A deals (conducting legal due diligence, providing legal advice on structuring, drafting and reviewing share purchase agreements, tender offer statements, and other relevant transactional agreements and documents)
- Domestic and foreign companies on corporate reorganizations
- Domestic and foreign companies (natural resources and energy, bio-venture, IT, media, real estate, financial institution, etc.) on general corporate matters and commercial agreements in relation to their day-to-day business operations
- Support for domestic companies in expanding their business overseas
- Publication and lectures on ESG and sustainability related matters

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Jun Ogi
Senior Manager

Background

Jun Ogi has 10 years of experience as a bengoshi (Japanese-qualified attorney). His practice mainly focuses on M&A, general corporate, financial regulations and data privacy/cybersecurity. In 2023, Jun was seconded to the EY London office to join the UK corporate legal team, where he worked on global group restructuring and global corporate governance.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Digital law
- Financial services law
- Labor and employment law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2013)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Japanese domestic and cross-border M&A and joint venture transactions (e.g., conducting legal due diligence, drafting of share transfer agreements and other related agreements, and closing support for obtaining permits and licenses)
- Structuring and implementing international group restructuring by mainly Japanese companies, and providing legal advice on post-restructuring group governance
- Foreign companies' (financial services, energy, etc.) expansion into the Japanese market, support for obtaining licenses, advice on legal compliance in daily operations and corporate secretarial services
- Implementation support for listed companies in connection with organizational changes, such as changes in governance structure or delisting
- Banks, insurance companies, and government-affiliated financial institutions' M&A, establishment of subsidiaries and joint ventures, and formation of funds
- Cross-border intra-group financing, including advising on structuring and preparation of related contracts
- Data protection and cybersecurity issues including the research on overseas data protection legislation, as well as legal support for security incidents
- Labor disputes and support for negotiations with labor unions



Saori Noda
Manager

Background

Saori Noda is focused on legal function consulting at EY Law. She has over 10 years of legal experience including serving as in-house counsel at a publicly listed, leading Japanese medical technology company where she handled contract negotiations, M&A, litigations, reorganizations, global compliance and overall management of the legal group across multiple jurisdictions globally. She also spent time in-house at a leading Japanese network and systems integration company where she handled legal and compliance matters in relation to proprietary technology as well as on several group reorganization projects (including related post-merger integration aspects and operational efficiency and governance). Upon graduating from law school, Saori began her career in private practice with a mid-sized law firm in Japan.

Main Practice Areas

- Legal function consulting
- Legal managed services

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2009)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Domestic and overseas M&A deals and the management of affiliated companies post acquisition
- Corporate legal affairs, including the annual general meetings, the board of directors, and support for the operation of the in-house decision-making system
- Disputes, including domestic and overseas lawsuits, mediation, and settlement negotiations, and establishment of investigation committees in the event of incidents
- Management and operational support of organization restructurings, the Articles of Incorporation, and other matters for group companies
- Strengthening and globalizing legal functions

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Masatoshi Takehara

Manager

Background

Masatoshi Takehara has over 10 years of experience as an auditor and as a lawyer in Japan. He advises across a wide range of subjects including tax, transaction law and general corporate. Before joining EY Law in 2019, he served as Review Officer (International Examination) in the Review Division, First Large Enterprise Department of the Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau. Masatoshi is also a Japanese Certified Public Accountant.

Main Practice Areas

- Tax investigation and disputes
- Corporate transformation law
- Corporate and commercial law
- Dispute resolution

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2013)
- Certified public accountant (*konin kaikeishi*)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- General corporate matters and drafting and review of various commercial agreements
- Compliance matters, including in relation to internal fraud investigations and risk management
- Planning and structuring of domestic and multinational reorganizations (legal and tax aspects)
- Legal and tax support for foreign clients in expanding their businesses into Japan
- Legal and tax support for Japanese clients in expanding their businesses overseas
- Tax matters for foreign clients
- Investigations conducted by Japanese and foreign judicial authorities
- Tax disputes
- Tax planning



Mariko Shibata

Manager

Background

Mariko Shibata has 8 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). She focuses on corporate and commercial matters. Prior to joining EY Law, she worked at a local law firm in Tokyo.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law
- Labor and employment law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2014)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- General corporate matters and drafting and review of various commercial agreements
- Support for domestic client in expanding businesses overseas
- Support for foreign client in expanding businesses into Japan for foreign clients
- Reorganization of overseas subsidiaries for Japanese clients
- M&A, JVs, IPOs (legal due diligence, legal advice on structuring, drafting and reviewing share purchase agreements and other transactional agreements, legal support on closing)
- Compliance matters, including in relation to internal fraud investigations and risk management
- Applications for registering trademarks and design rights in Japan and overseas, and infringements of intellectual property rights
- Labor/employment matters in corporate reorganizations
- Disputes related to dismissal and disciplinary matters

Legal Team members - EY Law Japan



Koji Ukai
Manager

Background

Koji Ukai is a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney) focusing on corporate, financial, regulatory and commercial matters. Prior to joining EY Law, he worked at a major Japanese financial institution for 7 years as in-house counsel where he handled many consulting projects in connection to stock compensation plans for executives and employees of publicly listed companies.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Financial services law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2017)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Advising on Stock compensation plans for executives and employees of publicly listed companies, along with assisting in drafting the necessary documentation for implementation (including various contracts, proposal for the general meeting of shareholders, internal regulations, disclosures, securities registration statements, etc.), handling organizational restructuring following the implementation of the system, and providing other legal advice as needed

- Developing stock compensation scheme, including conducting legal and tax research and verifications, coordinating with internal and external stakeholders for regulatory inquiries, building administrative structures for regulatory compliance, and ensuring alignment with tax regulations.

Publications

- “Reexamining stock-based compensation plans –From the perspective of the cost burden-” Commercial law review No.2180 (October 2018)
- “Practical considerations regarding proposals for executive compensation, etc.” Commercial law review No.2255 (February 2021)
- “Executive compensation plans as seen from examples of disclosure in 2021 business reports” Commercial law review No.2277 (November 2021)
- “Practical considerations and ideas regarding proposals for executive compensation –Toward disclosure that shareholders and investors support-” Commercial law review No.2287 (February 2022)
- “Considerations upon drafting a proposal for executive compensation” Commercial law review No.2313 (December 2022)
- “Novel stock compensation scheme: RS Trust” Trust Forum No.19 (April 2023)



Yuuki Ochi
Manager

Background

Yuuki Ochi has substantial experience in advising and supporting many leading international and Japanese clients mainly on corporate, cross-border M&As, cross-border trade and labor/employment matters. Prior to joining EY Law, Yuuki was a member of a local law firm in Tokyo.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law
- Labor and employment law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2018)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Commercial agreements (commercial transactions, licenses, employment, etc.) and legal advice on general corporate matters
- Japan/overseas business expansions
- Structuring corporate reorganizations
- Cross-border M&A and commercial transactions
- Transactional disputes between Japan and China
- Enforcement of Chinese arbitration awards in Japan
- Dismissals, claims for overtime payment, harassment at the workplace, sexual harassment

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Minae Ikari
Assistant Manager

Background

Minae Ikari is a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney) focusing on corporate, financial, regulatory and commercial matters. While in university she focused on administrative environmental law as well as on regulations in the nuclear energy technology space.

Main Practice Areas

- Transaction law
- Corporate and commercial law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2020)

Languages

- Japanese
- English
- French

Publications

- "Detailed Checklist of IPO Practices", (Chuokezai-sha, Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC, 2022), Writing Assistant
- "Environmental Litigation Law [2nd Edition]", Nippon-Hyeron-sha (Toshihiro Ochi, 2020), Writing Assistant
- "Essential Legal Advice Handbook for Practitioners" (Corporate Edition for Clients and Companies)" co-authored by Shin Nihon Hoki Shuppan Co., Ltd. (2023)

Experience

- Cross-border and domestic M&A:
 - Acquisition of a French machinery manufacturer by a public Japanese machinery manufacturer
 - Acquisition of a Greek company by a public Japanese electronics manufacturer
- Cross-border investments:
 - Investment by a public U.S. semiconductor manufacturer in a Japanese IT company
 - Investment by a financial institution (Japanese and Korean) in a Japanese life science startup
 - Japanese audio equipment manufacturer on a CVC deal
- Cross-border and domestic corporate restructuring:
 - Restructuring in Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia by a public Japanese machinery manufacturer
 - Restructuring of a Japanese trading company
 - Restructuring of a Japanese logistics company
 - Restructuring of a Japanese expressway engineering company
- Capitalization strategies and fundraising for start-ups, drafting important agreements, and regulatory issues, including matters with cross-boarder aspects
- Compliance matters for foreign companies:
 - ESG compliance assessment for a U.S. financial institution
 - Environmental and other regulatory compliance assessment for a U.S. semiconductor manufacturer



Kohei Rikiishi
Assistant Manager

Background

Before joining EY Law, Kohei Rikiishi worked in the planning department of a public institution and worked on accounting audits at EY ShinNihon (EY Japan's assurance service company).

He is a Japanese law qualified lawyer and Japanese CPA.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law
- Corporate transformation law
- Financial services law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2022)
- Certified public accountant (*konin kaikeishi*)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Domestic M&A deals
- Cross-border M&A deals
- Annual compliance matters for Japanese group affiliates of foreign clients
- Implementation of stock compensation plan by a foreign client
- Implementation of cash-pooling by a foreign client
- Regulatory Issues for a foreign fintech company seeking entry into Japan
- Establishment of foreign subsidiary and branch of a domestic listed company
- Offshore loan by a domestic listed company
- Legal advice to a Japanese start-up company
- Commodity derivative transactions by a domestic company
- Disclosure under the financial laws and regulations
- Research project by a government agency
- Statutory audits of listed companies, educational corporations, local independent administrative agencies, social welfare corporations, and other voluntary audits
- Audit of local governments
- Implementation and support of financial simulations for public enterprises

Legal

Team members - EY Law Japan



Natsumi Murakami

Associate

Background

Natsumi Murakami is focused on legal function consulting. Prior to joining EY Law, she was involved in various legal tasks such as reviewing contracts and advising on labor-management relations at a law firm. Following that, she worked in sales at a foreign-owned life insurance company, where she was responsible for planning various events to attract customers. In addition to this, she gave a lecture on the theme of "Lawyers and Sales" at a bar association and delivered a lecture on "The Science of Sales" at Nagoya University, engaging in a wide range of activities.

Main Practice Areas

- Legal function consulting
- Legal managed services

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2016)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Legal advice on general corporate matters and review of various commercial agreements
- Disputes related to dismissal and disciplinary matters
- As a visiting lecturer at the Nagoya University School of Economics, delivered the course "Sales Studies."



Anna Kurata

Associate

Background

Anna Kurata is a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney) focusing on corporate, financial, regulatory and commercial matters. Before joining EY Law, Anna was a member of local law firm in Tokyo.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law
- Financial services law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2022)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Annual compliance matters for a foreign-affiliated company
- Advising on foreign companies in connection with business transfers
- Advising on registration under Financial Instruments and Exchange Act by a foreign-affiliated company
- Advising on Japanese companies in connection with adoption of employee stock compensation plans
- Advising on overseas secondment of a Japanese company
- Advising on restructuring of overseas subsidiaries of Japanese companies
- Cross-border and domestic M&A deals
- Advising on compliance with the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, the Banking Act, and other financial regulations
- Preparation and review of a variety of legal contracts
- Advising on general corporate matters and compliance frameworks

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Haruka Sekiguchi

Associate

Background

Haruka Sekiguchi is a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney), focusing on corporate and commercial matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Corporate and commercial law
- Transaction law

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2023)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Preparation and review of a variety of legal contracts
- Advising on general corporate matters and compliance frameworks
- Drafting and review of internal corporate rules and policies



Haruo Hirano

Senior Advisor

Background

Haruo Hirano is primarily focused on legal consulting. Prior to joining EY Law, Haruo worked in the legal department of a major general trading company for 31 years. Simultaneously, Haruo completed the Diploma in Legal Studies at the University of Hong Kong in 2002. He then served as a professor at the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics at the University of Tokyo from 2013 until March 2024 (currently as a Professor Emeritus), and as a visiting professor at Columbia University Law School in the United States (2023). Haruo has also been involved in activities as a member (currently as an observer) of the Ministry of Justice's "Council for Promoting Translation of Japanese Laws and Regulations into Foreign Languages". Additionally, Haruo has participated as a member of the "Study Group on the Legal Functions of Japanese Companies towards Strengthening International Competitiveness" under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Main Practice Areas

- Legal function consulting
- Legal managed services

Languages

- Japanese
- English
- Chinese

Experience

- Handling general corporate legal, human resource development and management, and compliance matters in the legal department of a major general trading company.
- Serving as the Head of the Legal Department in the regional headquarters overseeing China, Hong Kong, and the United States. He also established the local legal department in China.
- Engaging in education and research primarily focused on international trade law, international corporate legal practice, international contract negotiations, and Asian business law.
- Participating in academic activities as the Chairman of the Japanese Council on International Transactions.

Publications and Lectures

- "The Essence of International Corporate Legal Affairs Learned by Cases," (Co-author) (Yuhikaku, 2017)
- "The Legal World and the World of Law, Professional Skills Edition," Law Review No. 445, 446, 447, 448, 449 (October 2017 - February 2018)
- "Chief Legal Officer as an Institutional Role or Entity," Law Review, The University of Tokyo Law School Vol. 17 (December 2022)
- "Positioning the Compliance Department in a New Era," Kokusai Shoji Houmu Vol. 51, No. 11 (November 2023) (Co-authored by Eri Maeda)
- "Enhancing Corporate Value through Corporate Legal Functions and Legal Management Personnel as Human Capital," 67th Comparative Law and Politics Symposium, the University of Tokyo (7 November 2023)
- "Developing Professionals - Towards Practical Training in Strategy and Management of Legal Talent," Strategic Legal and Governance Study Group (15 November 2023)

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Junko Okawa

Senior Advisor

Background

Junko Okawa has more than 20 years of experience as a *bengoshi* (Japanese-qualified attorney). She has substantial experience in advising and supporting many leading international and Japanese clients mainly on cross-border M&A, joint ventures and general corporate matters.

Main Practice Areas

- Legal function consulting
- Legal managed services

Qualifications

- Admitted in Japan (2000)
- Admitted in New York

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Experience

- Commercial agreements (commercial transactions, license, employment, etc.) and legal advice on general corporate matters
- Support for foreign clients in expanding their business in Japan
- Multinational reorganization
- Cross-border M&A (legal due diligence, legal advice on structure, drafting and reviewing share purchase agreements and other transactional agreements, legal support on closing)
- Joint ventures (legal due diligence, legal advice on structure, drafting and reviewing shareholders' agreements and other transactional agreements, legal support on closing)
- Competition law related matters
- Investigations by the competition authorities

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping to create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

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