

Partner

Kazuhiro Kobayashi

Osaka Bar Association, Japan Federation of Bar Associations (1994)
New York (2001)
Location
Osaka Office

Practice Areas

Corporate and M&A

General Corporate Practice / Corporate Litigations, Disputes and D&O Liabilities / M&A, Reorganization, and Business Alliance / Corporate Governance/Shareholders Meeting / Venture and Startup Support

Risk Management & Compliance

Corporate Investigation / Product Liability / Bribery, Financial and Governmental Regulations / Global Compliance / Protection of Personal Information

Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual Property Transactions / License and Franchise / Intellectual Property Dispute Resolution

Competition and Antitrust

Government Investigations / Competition/Consumer Protection Compliance

Dispute Resolution

Corporate Litigations, Disputes and D&O Liabilities / Intellectual Property Dispute Resolution / Product Liability / International Dispute Resolution / International Arbitration

International Practice

International Dispute Resolution / International Arbitration / Trade Remedies (Anti-Dumping, Countervailing Duties and Safeguards) / Indonesia / Thailand / Vietnam / India / Republic of Korea / Hong Kong / Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean / Asia/Emerging Countries Desk / Singapore / Malaysia / Philippines / Myanmar / Cambodia and Laos / North America / Europe / Australia

Energy and Infrastructure

Electricity / Gas

Life Science, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare

Research and Development / Business-Academia Collaboration / Marketing Regulation / Distribution Strategy / Dispute Resolution / Crisis Management / M&A / Cosmetics & Health/Beauty Care Products

Personal Data, AI, IT and Digital

Protection of Personal Information and Privacy

Professional Summary

Mr. Kobayashi has wide-ranging experience in corporate, M&A, compliance, intellectual property, antitrust, international transactions, product liability and dispute resolution. Mr. Kobayashi has handled MBOs and corporate reorganizations of listed companies. He has represented directors in shareholder ' s derivative actions and has won a case. As defense attorney for pharmaceutical companies, he has handled many cases of alleged contaminated medicines.

Mr. Kobayashi has assisted Japanese listed company in receiving subscription of equities and bonds from foreign companies. He has filed a petition for commencement of rehabilitation proceedings, which is similar to Chapter 11 proceedings, for Japanese listed company having a branch in Singapore and subsidiaries in Malaysia.

Mr. Kobayashi has handled establishing foreign capital ' s entities and advising on their operations in Japan. He has also handled dispute resolutions in which foreign companies are involved.

Education & Professional Experience

2000-2002
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (New York)

2000
University of Michigan Law School (LL.M.)

1994-2011
Kikkawa Law Offices

1991-1992
Legal Department, Toshiba Corporation

1991
Kyoto University (LL.B.)

Activities

- Representative Facilitator, International Practice Study Group, Osaka Bar Association (April 2025-)

- Vice-chairperson of Special Committee on ADR Promotion of Osaka Bar Association (April 2024-)

- Director of the Japan Association of Arbitrators (JAA)(2020-)

- Mediator of the Japan International Mediation Center in Kyoto (JIMC-Kyoto)(2018-)

- Specialist Mediator of Singapore International Mediation Centre (2018-)

- International Arbitrator of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (2018-)

- Inter-Pacific Bar Association At-Large Council (2018-2024)

- Adjunct Instructor at Kansai University School of Law (2012-), International Contract Practice

- Part-time Instructor at Osaka Prefecture University (2011-2021), International Legal Strategy

- Secretary General of Kansai Branch of Japan Association of Arbitrators (2010-2020)

- Arbitrator of The Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (2010-)

- Chairperson of International Committee of Osaka Bar Association (2010-2012)

- Adjunct Instructor at Kansai University School of Law (2009), Economic Law (Antimonopoly Law) Seminar

- Vice-chairperson of International Committee of Osaka Bar Association (2008-2010)

- Director of Licensing Executives Society Japan (2007-2017, 2024-)

Publications

2026.08.10	Beware of Bribery Risks Abroad
2026.03	Application of the U.S. FCPA since the Beginning of the Second Trump Administration - Points to Note for Japanese Companies under the New Guidelines -

2026.03.10	Notes on a Governing Law Clause in International Contracts (4) Certain Governing Law Clauses Which Become Issues in Practice
2025.12.10	Notes on a Governing Law Clause in International Contracts (3) Applicable Law Notwithstanding a Governing Law Clause
2025.10.10	Petition for a Ruling on Arbitral Tribunal Jurisdiction under Article 23,Paragraph 5 of the Arbitration Act of Japan (Japan Commercial Arbitration Journal VOL. 6 ［2025］)
2025.09.10	Notes on a Governing Law Clause in International Contracts (2)Limitation on Party Autonomy in the Governing Law Clause and the Effect of the Governing Law Clause on Non-Contractual Claims
2025.06.10	Notes on a Governing Law Clause in International Contracts (1) Purpose of a Governing Law Clause and Party Autonomy
2024	International Licensing and Technology Transfer: Practice and the Law - Chapters 2, 5, 6, 7 (each Japan part)
2024.09.20	Practical Issues in Enforcing International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation
2023.12.22	Recent Amendments to the Arbitration Act and the New Mediation Law concerning the Enforcement of International Mediation - Part II
2023.10.02	Revision of the Arbitration Act and Signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation
2023.09	Scope, Amount and Sharing of Arbitration Expenses and Court Costs in Japan
2023.09.22	Recent Amendments to the Arbitration Act and the New Mediation Law concerning the Enforcement of International Mediation – Part I
2022.07.01	Economic Sanctions Against Russia and Other Countries - Measures to Prohibit Export and Others
2021.11	International Comparative Legal Guides: Private Equity 2021, Japan Chapter
2021.09	Arbitration Clauses under Revised JCAA Arbitration Rules
2021.08	Global Legal Insights to: Pricing & Reimbursement 2021（Fourth Edition） Japan Chapter
2020.08	Global Legal Insights to: Pricing & Reimbursement 2020（Third Edition） Japan Chapter
2020.05	Legal Challenges Magazine: Doing Business in Japan
2019.12	International Legal Practice
2019.08	Global Legal Insights to: Pricing & Reimbursement 2019（Second Edition） Japan Chapter
2019.08	Arbitration Clauses under New JCAA Arbitration Rules
2016.09	Protecting Personal Information Beyond the Borders of Japan
2015.06	Q&As on the Business Legal Practice: Business Expansion to Overseas Markets by Small and Medium-Sized Companies (1)
2015.05	Joint R&D Agreement Handbook- Practices and Examples of Japanese-English Provisions
2013.10	Special Issue to Indonesian Business Law Commentary, Franchise Regulation - Service Industry with more Restrictions on Foreign Investment than Manufacturing -
2012.11	Product Recall, Liability and Insurance
2012.05	First Special Topic: Points of Review of English Agreements - Distributorship or Agency Agreement -
2012.02.20	US Bankruptcy Law Part II
2012.02.15	Commentary on United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sales of Goods Vol.8
2011.12	Practical Guide to the CISG: Through a Comparison with Japanese Civil and Commercial Law
2011.01.21	US Bankruptcy Law Part I
2007.01	The Japanese Language Translation of IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration
2006.12	Japan Corporation Law Guide
2006.10	International Distributorship/Agency Agreement

2006.04	Confidentiality Agreement
2006.04	Guide to International Legal Practice (1) to (11)

Seminars/Lectures

2026.10.20	US Business Study Sessions [Session 4]: US Trade Regulations, Supply Chains and Tax Risks (tentative translation)
2026.09.29	【Live Streaming (Zoom)】【Video Streaming】International Distributorship and Agency Agreements - Points to Note in Reviewing English Contracts -
2026.07.25	JIAW2026 "Towards Fair, Impartial and Trustworthy International Mediation"
2026.03.19	[Online Seminar] English Contract Seminar "Distributorship and Agency Agreements - Consideration of Major Clauses in Light of Laws to Protect Distributors and Agents -"
2026.03.04	Current Status and Prospects of Methods of International Dispute Resolution -Latest Trends and Utilization of International Mediation and International Arbitration for International Small Claims Disputes-
2025.10.10	Basics of and Latest Trends in Anti-Bribery and Gifts Compliance
2025.05.19	Important Points in US Business under the Trump Administration
2024.06.04	"Trends in AI Inventions/Regulations in Europe" ～Patenting AI inventions, Enforcement of AI patents, Regulating AI in EU, Comparison with Japanese practice～
2024.05.17	【Online Seminar】 Seminar on Legal Practices for Companies Expanding Their Business Abroad (12): Prevention of Corruption in Overseas Countries
2022.04.18	【Online Seminar】Russian Sanctions and Security Trade Controls
2021.12.08	Mock International Arbitration Seminar - Faster and Cheaper through Expedited Arbitration Procedures of the JCAA
2021.10.12	SIAC and JAA Kansai Chapter Osaka Webinar Series: Part II From Negotiations to Constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal: A Practical Guide to Preparing for Arbitration
2021.09.16	【Onilne Seminar】New Series of International Legal Practice Seminars (1): Regarding Foreign Corrupt Practices
2021.08.25	JAA Kansai Chapter Osaka and SIAC Webinar Series: Part 1 The Advantages of Arbitration for Japanese SMEs
2021.02.16	【Online Seminar】International Legal Practice Seminar (3): International Trade and Prevention of Foreign Corrupt Practices
2019.04.19	【Osaka】Choice of Arbitration Rules and Drafting Arbitration Clauses in light of the Amendment of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA) Rules
2019.01.24	IPBA Dubai Regional Conference "Agency Agreements: The commercial and contractual relationship issues of doing business in the Middle East"
2018.05.21	The Latest Trends in International Arbitrations and Mediations in Singapore: Effective Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution
2018.05.03	DOING BUSINESS in HONG KONG and JAPAN
2018.02.07	Legal Issues under Korea's New Administration - Particularly on Labor Law, and the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act (the Kim Young-ran Act)
2017.12.06	Latest Trends of Arbitration Practices in China and Hong Kong - Learning from Experiences Arbitrating at the HKIAC -
2017.10.24	Basic Practical Issues of International Technology License Agreements - Essential Knowledge for Understanding and Drafting Agreements
2017.09.20	Use of International Arbitrations - Learning from Experiences Arbitrating at the SIMC

2017.07.06	Current Updates on Arbitration in China: Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in Mainland China and Recent Practices in Hong Kong and Shanghai
2017.05.31	International Arbitration Trends in Korea
2017.03	Lawyer Advises, "It's risky, Mr.President"(6) : Pitfalls in International Trade, Learned through Quizzes and Actual Examples
2017.02	4th Seminar on Indonesia (held in Japan): "Problems on Indonesian Laws and Regulations from the Perspective of Japanese Investors"
2016.10	International Dispute Resolution Seminar: Latest Updates on Arbitration in Korea - Practical Differences between the KCAB and the JCAA
2016.10	Overseas Business Development Seminar in Osaka
2016.10	Knowhow to Avoid Failures in Overseas Joint Ventures for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises - A Seminar Focusing on Key Clauses of JV Contracts
2016.03	Business Expansion and Corporate Governance (mainly focusing on the business expansion to Asian countries)
2015.12	International Commercial Mediation Seminar: "Promotion of International Commercial Mediation"
2015.11	Let's Start Now: Introduction to Overseas Joint Venture Agreements - Risk Management for a Successful Joint Venture
2015.10	Basics of the Legal Practice on Cross-border M&As/Joint Venture Agreements
2015.10	Strategy for Asia and Risk Management by Global Enterprises - with an Eye to the Establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)
2015.09	Corporate Law Systems in India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, and Legal Compliance Practices for Japanese Companies
2015.09	Kroll Ontrack Seminar in Osaka: "Before Your Company is Ruined"Regulations Against the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, including the FCPA, and Prevention Mechanisms Therefor
2015.09	The Realities of Arbitration between Japanese and Chinese Parties as Explained by the Staff of Arbitral Institutions - To Learn About the Arbitral Proceedings of SHIAC
2014.10	Issues on Combatting Bribery of Foreign Public Officials such as FCPA
2014.07	International Arbitration in Japan
2014.01	How to Give Advice to Small and Medium Enterprises on their Business Development in ASEAN Countries
2013.11	Points to Consider in Negotiating Joint Venture Agreements
2013.01	Anti-Bribery Regulations and Specific Anti-Bribery Measures
2013.01	Overseas Development of Service Industry (Especially in Asian Countries)
2012.06	Recent Corporate Crime
2011.12	International Jurisdiction - The Amendment of the Civil Procedure Act in 2011

Languages

Japanese and English