



Hitoshi Ishihara

Partner

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Hitoshi Ishihara provides a variety of legal services to various international and foreign-affiliated clients establishing and doing business in Japan, with an exceptional focus on cross-border business negotiation, dispute resolution, M&A, international trade, and corporate/commercial matters (including advice concerning corporate governance, compliance, JV management, and internal investigations). His distinctive English skill, backed by over seven years experience in the United States, enables him to effectively bridge the linguistic and cultural gap faced by his clients.

Mr. Ishihara also provides pertinent and timely advice that matches the needs of clients expanding overseas, utilizing his rich experience in negotiating and coordinating with clients and counterparts not only from the United States and EU countries, but also in various other jurisdictions including those countries in Asia, Middle East, South America, and Eastern Europe.

In the intellectual property field, Mr. Ishihara has extensive experience in IP licensing and transactions and also provides advice on regulatory issues especially in the entertainment field, with an exceptional focus in the field of sports, being only one of the two recommended Japanese lawyers in the field of Sports & Gaming by Who's Who Legal, being quoted "Hitoshi Ishihara maintains a first-rate reputation in the market thanks to his excellent cross-border business negotiation work in the sports industry."

Mr. Ishihara also has extensive focus and knowledge concerning the Japanese casino and gaming laws including the Japanese Integrated Resort (IR) Act, providing advice concerning the Japanese gaming regulations to various operators, suppliers, affiliate marketers, platformers, publishers, foreign law firms, state agencies, and various other stake holders.

Mr. Ishihara is the only Japanese attorney-at-law who is admitted as a member of the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL), which is a non-profit association of gaming attorneys, regulators, educators, executives and consultants from around the world who are dedicated to education and the exchange of professional information and advice.

Mr. Ishihara is quoted by Chambers as "Hitoshi is the preeminent gaming lawyer in Japan, and well recognised for his expertise in the international community of gaming lawyers" and has been named "Gaming Lawyer of the Year in Japan" by various publications, such as Acquisition International Magazine, Corporate Intl Magazine, and Global Law Experts Magazine.

HI_Chambers-Global-2024

HI_chambers-asia-2024

Practice Areas

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|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Corporate | Corporate and Commercial Transactions | | Shareholder Activism | |
| M&A | M&A/Business Restructuring | Business Alliances | Joint Ventures | |
| Government Investigations and Crisis Management | Corporate criminal defense | | Information leakage | |
| Intellectual Property/TMT | Trademark/Design Prosecution | Copyright and Entertainment | IP Disputes | |
| Dispute Resolution | | | | |
| Economic Security and International Trade | | | | |
| International Practice | | | | |

Topics

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|------------------------------|---|
| Achievements Apr 18, 2024 | The Best Lawyers in Japan™ • Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Japan™ (2025 Edition) |
| Achievements Feb 15, 2024 | Chambers Global 2024 |
| Achievements Dec 14, 2023 | Chambers Asia-Pacific 2024 |

Practice Groups

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| Corporate Transaction Group | Dispute Resolution Group | Asia and Emerging Countries Practice Group |
| Corporate Crisis Management Practice Group | Data Privacy & Digital Group | |

Background

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| Mar 2000 | Keio University (LL.B) |
| Sep 2008 - Sep 2009 | Associated with Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP (New York) |

Publications

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|---|--|----------|
| The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides 2023 - Japan: Gambling Law | The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides 2023 - Gambling Law | Nov 2023 |
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| The Gambling Law Review - Edition 8 (Japan Chapter) | The Law Reviews | Jun 2023 |
| The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides Japan GAMBLING LAW | The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides | Nov 2022 |
| The Gambling Law Review - Edition 7 (Japan Chapter) | The Law Reviews | May 2022 |
| The Gambling Law Review - Edition 6 (Japan Chapter) | The Law Reviews | Jun 2021 |
| The Gambling Law Review - Edition 4 (Japan Chapter) | The Law Reviews | Jul 2019 |
| With Japan set to build three integrated resorts, operators cast eyes on potential \$33.8 billion casino market | The Straits Times | Apr 2019 |
| Investment Structures under Act for Development of Specified Complex Tourist Facilities Areas (Casino Law) | NBL 1135 | Dec 2018 |
| (2018.12.1) | | |
| Legalization of Casinos in Japan: The Japan's Casino Implementation Bill | American Gaming Lawyer (Autumn 2018) | Sep 2018 |
| Introduction to the Japanese Integrated Resort (IR) / Casino Law | LexisNexis Japan (Japan Lawyers Guide 2018/19) | Sep 2018 |
| The Gambling Law Review - Edition 3 (Japan Chapter) | The Law Reviews | Jul 2018 |
| Regulation: as long and winding road | G3 Newswire May 2018 | Jul 2018 |
| Concepts To Implement An Integrated Resort in Japan | American Gaming Lawyer (Spring 2018) | Feb 2018 |
| The Gambling Law Review Second Edition (Chapter 15 Japan) | Law Business Research Ltd | Jun 2017 |
| Japanese Casino Law | Gaming Law Review and Economics , VOL. 21, NO. 1 | Feb 2017 |
| Japan's Gaming Reform | Acquisition International (January Issue) | Jan 2017 |
| Juego en Japon Legalizacion Primera Fase | Revista CASINO, Turismo y Entretenimiento (January Issue) | Jan 2017 |
| How to convey the message, understanding the difference of the legal regime and customs | The Japan Business Law (October Issue) | Oct 2016 |
| The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling 2016 (General Chapter) | Global Legal Group Ltd | Nov 2015 |
| Overview of the Japanese Casino Bill | Asian Gaming Lawyer (Spring 2015) | May 2015 |
| The Policy Objective of IR Bill –what is the objective and how should it be reached– | Japan IR Forum (Website) | Apr 2015 |
| Counseling Room for Legal Problems | The Japan Business Law (June Issue) | Apr 2015 |
| The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling 2015 (General Chapter) | Global Legal Group Ltd | Dec 2014 |
| Introduction to Japanese Business Law & Practice Second Edition | LexisNexis Japan | Oct 2014 |
| The Japanese "Casino Bill": Potential Sources of Successes and Failures of Cross-Border Dealings | LexisNexis Japan (Japan Lawyers Guide 2014/15) | Oct 2014 |
| Excited about the Deep Space being an Attorney representing the National Astronomy Observation of Japan | The Asahi Shinbun Digital | Jul 2013 |
| The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Corporate Governance 2009 (Japan Chapter) | Global Legal Group Ltd | Jun 2009 |
| The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Corporate Governance 2008 (Japan Chapter) | Global Legal Group Ltd | Jun 2008 |

Lectures

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| [Covington & Burling LLP × Anderson Mori & Tomotsune LPC × FRONTEO Joint Webinar] Gaming, Gambling, and Sports Betting: Hot Topics in Japan and the United States | Fronteo | Apr 7, 2022 |
| Australasia 2021: Way forward post COVID | IMGL | Mar 11, 2021 |
| Gaming and cryptocurrencies: is gaming the best way to test cryptocurrencies in a digital economy? | IBA | Sep 24, 2019 |
| Developing an international integrated resort consortium: Sourcing local partners and collaborating with international expertise | Clarion Events Ltd. | May 17, 2019 |
| Cross Border Transactions | Chambers and Partners | Feb 26, 2019 |
| Speed Speak Tokyo | Chambers and Partners | Feb 26, 2019 |
| Gambling and Its Contribution to Economic Growth | International Masters of Gaming Law | Sep 6, 2018 |
| IR Casinos in Japan: The Next Big Thing in the Casino Industry | International Masters of Gaming Law | Sep 12, 2017 |
| Global Gaming Reforms | International Masters of Gaming Law | Mar 30, 2015 |
| Entry into Myanmar and its Front Line Practices | Anderson Mori & Tomotsune | Feb 12, 2015 |
| Is Skype the limit? Are phone bills a thing of the past? | IBA | Oct 23, 2014 |
| Entry into Myanmar and Front Line Management of Risk Factors | SMBC Consulting Co.,Ltd. | Oct 6, 2014 |

Achievements

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|--------------|---|
| Apr 18, 2024 | The Best Lawyers in Japan™ • Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Japan™ (2025 Edition) |
| Feb 15, 2024 | Chambers Global 2024 |
| Dec 14, 2023 | Chambers Asia-Pacific 2024 |
| Oct 4, 2023 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2023 |
| Apr 20, 2023 | The Best Lawyers in Japan™ 2024 |
| Sep 22, 2022 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2022 |
| Apr 14, 2022 | Best Lawyers 2023 |
| Dec 10, 2021 | Who's Who Legal: Sports and Gaming 2021 |
| Oct 9, 2021 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2021 |
| Apr 15, 2021 | Best Lawyers 2022 |
| Sep 1, 2020 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2020 |
| Apr 9, 2020 | Best Lawyers 2021 |
| Nov 29, 2019 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2019 |
| Nov 7, 2018 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2018 |
| Nov 2, 2017 | Who's Who Legal: Japan 2017 |

Professional Admissions

Japan (2003)
California (2013)

Professional and Academic Associations

Daini Tokyo Bar Association
State Bar of California
International Masters of Gaming Law

Languages

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| Japanese (first language) | English (near native) |
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