



Masaakira Kitazawa

Of Counsel

TEL: 81-3-6775-1010

Tokyo Office

FAX: 81-3-6775-2010

Masaakira Kitazawa is an of counsel at Anderson Mori & Tomotsune and specializes in banking, securities, general corporate and commercial law. He advises domestic and foreign clients on financial regulatory matters, including corporate governance and compliance as well as transactional work, acquisition and restructuring of corporate group entities, M&A, tender offers, private equity investments and securitization. Mr. Kitazawa was also involved in many public offerings, including IPOs and listings on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Among others, his projects and transactions include the following:

Acting as chief legal advisor to a temporarily nationalized Japanese bank, which was subsequently privatized; providing ongoing advice to the subsequent entity in connection with all aspects of its business, including government relations, banking, commercial transactions, acquisitions and general advice to management.

Acting as chief legal advisor to a major Japanese bank targeted by Japan's first hostile (later non-hostile) tender offer initiated by a Japanese financial group.

Advising a UK investment bank following its failure to abide by regulations in connection with Asian futures transactions. The work involved intense negotiations with Japanese financial authorities, the stock exchange and courts.

Advising a major US financial institution on all aspects of its operations in Japan, including its consumer finance subsidiaries, acquisitions of other companies and issues related to compliance with stringent Japanese regulatory requirements.

Advising a major UK based venture capital and private entity in connection with its establishment and subsequent investment activities in Japan.

Securitization of real property and other assets owned by solvent and insolvent insurance companies on behalf of funds managed and administered by a major US investment bank.

Advising the UK Government, issuers and/or underwriters on secondary offerings in privatization initiatives undertaken with respect to the electricity, gas and water sectors in the UK.



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Practice Areas

Corporate	Corporate and Commercial Transactions		Corporate Governance	
M&A	M&A/Business Restructuring		Hostile Takeovers	Joint Ventures
	Venture	Private	Business Alliances	
	Capital	Equity/Funds	Cross-border M&A	
Finance and Financial Institutions	Financial		Asset Management and Investment	
	Banking	Regulation	Funds	
Government Investigations and Crisis Management	Internal investigations and organizing third-party committees			
International Practice	United States	EU		

Topics

Achievements Apr 18, 2024	The Best Lawyers in Japan™ • Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Japan™ (2025 Edition)
Achievements Feb 21, 2024	Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers - independently rated lawyers
Achievements Jul 27, 2023	IFLR1000 2023

Practice Groups

Corporate Transaction Group	Financial Services & Transactions Group	Corporate Crisis Management Practice Group
Financial Restructuring & Insolvency Group		

Background

1976	Tokyo University (LL.B.)
1981	Harvard Law School (LL.M.)
1981 - 1982	Trained at a law firm in the United States
1987 - 2022	Partner of Anderson Mori & Tomotsune
2023	Of Counsel of Anderson Mori & Tomotsune

Publications

Life After Bingham for Hideyuki Sakai	PRESS	Apr 2015
A survey of current regulatory trends	Publication by International Bar Association, Financial Crisis Task Force	Oct 2010
Interim Report: preliminary views on the financial crisis	Task Force on the Financial Crisis (April 2010)	Apr 2010

Lectures

Dynamic, complex and competitive - focus on the Asia Pacific region	IBA (International Bar Association)	Jun 4, 2013
Cross-Border M&A in East Asia	IPBA (Inter-Pacific Bar Association)	Apr 17 - 20, 2013
Liberalization of the Japanese Legal Market	International Malaysia Law	Sep 26 - 28, 2012
Qualified Foreign Lawyers System in Japan and the Legal Market under the System	LawAsia	Oct 9 - 12, 2011
The Financial Institutions Regulatory Landscape After The Financial Crises	IPBA (Inter-Pacific Bar Association)	May 2 - 5, 2010
Corporate Legal Practice and Civil Code Amendment	Civil Code Amendment Study Group	2009
Globalization and Financial Securities Law	Kyoto University	2002
Exchange Traded Derivatives-The Risks for Users	International Bar Association	Jul 10, 1995

Achievements

Apr 18, 2024	The Best Lawyers in Japan™ • Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Japan™ (2025 Edition)
Feb 21, 2024	Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers - independently rated lawyers
Jul 27, 2023	IFLR1000 2023
Apr 20, 2023	The Best Lawyers in Japan™ 2024
Sep 19, 2022	IFLR1000 32nd edition (IFLR1000 2022-23)
Apr 14, 2022	Best Lawyers 2023
Sep 13, 2021	IFLR1000 31st edition (IFLR1000 2022)
Apr 15, 2021	Best Lawyers 2022
Oct 1, 2020	IFLR1000 30th edition (IFLR1000 2021)
Apr 9, 2020	Best Lawyers 2021
Sep 30, 2019	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2020
Apr 4, 2019	Best Lawyers 2020
Nov 12, 2018	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2019
Nov 9, 2018	Asialaw Profiles 2019
Nov 7, 2018	Who's Who Legal: Japan 2018
May 14, 2018	Asialaw Leading Lawyers 2018
Nov 29, 2017	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2018

Nov 13, 2017	Asialaw Profiles 2018
Nov 2, 2017	Who's Who Legal: Japan 2017
Oct 16, 2017	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2018
Aug 2, 2017	Asialaw Leading Lawyers 2017
Nov 10, 2016	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017
Nov 2, 2016	Who's Who Legal: Japan 2016
Oct 31, 2016	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2017
Nov 13, 2015	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2016
Oct 27, 2015	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2016
Nov 20, 2014	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2015
Oct 30, 2014	Who's Who Legal: Japan 2014
Oct 10, 2014	IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2015
Mar 14, 2014	Chambers Global 2014
Feb 18, 2014	Chambers Asia 2014
Nov 13, 2013	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2014
Oct 11, 2013	IFLR 1000 2014
Mar 21, 2013	Chambers Global 2013
Mar 4, 2013	Chambers Asia 2013
Nov 30, 2012	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2013
Oct 31, 2012	IFLR 1000 2013
Jul 17, 2012	Best Lawyers 2012
Mar 25, 2012	Chambers Global 2012
Feb 24, 2012	Chambers Asia 2012
Dec 13, 2011	The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2012
Oct 17, 2011	IFLR 1000 2012
Dec 8, 2010	Legal 500 2010/2011
Sep 14, 2010	Best Lawyers 2010
Dec 2, 2008	Chambers Asia 2009
Dec 2, 2008	Legal500 2008/2009

Professional Admissions

Japan (1978)
New York (1982)

Professional and Academic Associations

Daini Tokyo Bar Association
New York State Bar Association
American Bar Association

Languages

Japanese (first
language) English