



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 with an exceptional focus on Myanmar, as he serves as the Co-Chair of the firm's Myanmar Desk.

In the intellectual property field, Mr. Ishihara has extensive experience in IP licensing and transactions and also provides advice on regulatory issues. In the antitrust field, Mr. Ishihara has been involved in various international cartel cases in which he dealt with foreign antitrust agencies by cooperating with co-counsels in those jurisdictions.

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 IR Act and gaming regulations to various casino operators, equipment manufacturers, foreign law firms, and state agencies. 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 Who's Who Legal as "Hitoshi Ishihara boasts vast experience in the TMT sector and is a well-known figure in the gaming market" 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.

Practice Areas

Corporate

Corporate and Commercial Transactions Shareholder Activism

M&A

M&A/Business Restructuring Business Alliances Joint Ventures

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|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Government Investigations and Crisis Management | Corporate criminal defense | Information leakage | |
| Intellectual Property/Life Sciences/TMT | Trademark/Design Prosecution | Copyright and Entertainment | IP Disputes |
| Dispute Resolution | | | |
| International Trade | | | |
| International Practice | | | |

Topics

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| Articles May 2022 | The Gambling Law Review - Edition 7 (Japan Chapter) |
| Achievements Apr 14, 2022 | Best Lawyers 2023 |
| External Seminars Apr 7, 2022 | [Covington & Burling LLP × Anderson Mori & Tomotsune LPC × FRONTEO Joint Webinar] Gaming, Gambling, and Sports Betting: Hot Topics in Japan and the United States |

Practice Groups

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| Corporate Transaction Group | Dispute Resolution Group | Asia and Emerging Countries Practice Group |
| Corporate Crisis Management Practice Group | Technology & Information Practice 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 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) (2018.12.1) | NBL 1135 | Dec 2018 |
| 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 |

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|---|---|----------|
| 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 |
| Legal Issues in Entering the Myanmar Market in the Form of a Joint Venture -Study on the Know-How to Establish a Joint Venture and the Valid and Effective Provisions in Joint-Venture Agreement- | | Jan 27, 2014 |

Achievements

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| 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

Japanese (first
language)

English (near
native)