

Japan Overview

The Japan Practice Area is headed by Toshio Nakao, a partner in the firm's Business and Finance Department. Attorneys in the Japan Practice represent more than 100 Japanese-affiliated companies in the Midwest as well as in Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey and California. They provide advice on a variety of matters including establishment of new businesses, land purchase, obtaining tax incentives, construction contracts, immigration, employee handbooks, mergers, acquisitions, distributorship, agency, licensing, joint venture, labor and employment, product liability, and corporate reorganization.

Since the U.S. legal system is substantially different from that of Japan, simply hiring an attorney who can speak Japanese is not sufficient to eliminate potential problems that can result from miscommunication or not understanding the perspective of a Japanese client doing business in the U.S. or an American client doing business with a Japanese company. The Japan Practice Area's attorneys and professional staff, including Mr. Nakao, not only speak English and Japanese, they also understand the concerns and key issues unique to Japanese companies. Our Japan Practice Area attorneys also provide advice to American companies who are considering or doing business with Japanese companies. Since the Japan Practice draws from the substantial experience of attorneys in other departments of the firm, it is fully equipped for virtually any legal issue which may arise.

Additionally, our Japan Practice provides general consultation on matters related to day-to-day management of Japanese companies currently operating in the U.S., as well as labor law issues such as common labor disputes, labor union issues, workers' compensation, or discrimination claims.

Attorneys in the Japan Practice Area also represent Japanese-affiliated



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companies in the increasing number of litigations and arbitrations involving matters of distributorship agreement, Title 7 discrimination, joint ventures, confidentiality, and licensing. The Japan Practice Group also provides comprehensive immigration services -- various non-immigrant visas and immigrant visas -- to public companies, privately held corporations, and individuals. We also assist U.S. employees in obtaining non-immigrant visas to foreign countries including Japan, Brazil, Thailand, and China.

Yasushi Hasegawa, a paralegal, graduated from Keio University in Tokyo with an L.L.B. degree and worked for an international law firm specializing in intellectual property for five years. While he was primarily engaged in filing and maintaining domestic/international trademark applications, he also handled immigration, incorporation, various business licenses, maritime cargo claims and contracts. At Taft, he devotes himself to the Japanese clients' immigration matters.

Yoko Foltz, a Japanese client coordinator, earned a B.A. degree in Law from the Surugadai University in Japan. She was a liaison to the English speaking divisions of a leading electronics manufacturer, and also a proofreader of English documents for a corporate credit research company. Ms. Foltz currently serves as Mr. Nakao's primary assistant to provide extended services to Japanese clients.