SAKURA

SAKURA Law Office

Transforming reality into hope.



Perspective for decisions that matter.

Business

Owners & individuals

International

SAKURA Law Office advises on business management, transactions, disputes and technology, as well as the personal affairs of business owners and individuals. We begin by understanding what each client seeks to achieve, then develop options that support informed decisions and practical action.

Our lawyers' backgrounds include service as a judge, work in central banking, investment banking and investment funds, and teaching and research at law schools. Combining perspectives from law, finance, management and academia, we examine each client's challenges from multiple angles.



Find the counsel you need.

From day-to-day advice to pivotal moments in business and life.
Explore the sections most relevant to you.

Business

Corporate & Governance 04
M&A, Finance & Business Succession 05
Dispute Resolution & Crisis Management 06
Employment, Real Estate & Restructuring 07
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Counsel alongside your business.

From startups to growing and established businesses, we provide corporate legal advice grounded in how each business and organization operates. We consider contracts, board and shareholder meetings, internal policies and controls in the context of management objectives and day-to-day operations.

Our work extends beyond advice to outsourced corporate legal support and negotiations. We provide continuity from legal assessment and negotiations to notices, agreements and, where needed, dispute resolution. We also work with certified public accountants, tax advisers and judicial scriveners on matters spanning professional disciplines.

01

Contracts

Clear terms and responsibilities

Drafting & review

02

Decisions

Sound procedures and rationale

Board & shareholder meetings

03

Operations

Connected to day-to-day practice

Internal policies & compliance

Understanding the business and organization

Contracts / Governance / Internal controls / Outsourced legal support & negotiations

Sound transactions.
The next stage of growth.

M&A

From the purpose of a deal
to the business beyond closing.



01	02	03	04
Objectives	Due diligence & structuring	Negotiation & closing	Succession & management
Acquisitions, disposals & equity investment	Legal review & transaction design	Contracts & closing procedures	Shares, assets & management

Financial law | Flow of funds | Security & recovery | Regulation

Our lawyers include professionals with experience at securities firms, investment banks and investment funds. Guided by the objectives of an acquisition, disposal or equity investment, we provide coordinated support across legal due diligence, transaction structuring, contract negotiations and closing.

For financing transactions, we consider the flow of funds, security, recovery and regulation together. In business succession, we address transfers of shares and assets alongside subsequent management. Working with accounting, tax and other specialists, we help define the overall strategy and sequence of implementation.

Looking beyond the dispute.

Dispute resolution

Understanding the facts and evidence comes first. We clarify the interests to protect and the resolution to seek, then consider negotiation and legal proceedings together. Our work covers commercial litigation, debt recovery, management disputes, defamation and reputational harm.

Crisis management

In responding to misconduct and crises, we consider early fact-finding, internal decision-making and communications with stakeholders as a whole. Alongside resolving the immediate issue, we address business continuity, securing performance of obligations, and measures to prevent recurrence.



Litigation & negotiation / Securing claims & recovery / Misconduct / Reputation

People and assets.
Your business’s future.

Supporting people and organizations

We advise on employment from recruitment to departure, including terms of employment, work rules, workplace issues and labor disputes. By examining formal policies alongside actual practice, we support decisions backed by appropriate procedures and explanations, connecting individual responses to wider organizational improvement.

Supporting change in business and assets

Our work covers real estate acquisition and operation, leases and claims for possession, restructuring and insolvency. We examine rights, assets, liabilities, security and stakeholder objectives to assess negotiation and procedural options, with business continuity and asset use in mind.

A practical perspective on new technology.

We examine how technology works and how it is used in business, mapping the relationships among developers, providers and users and the flow of information. Our work on metaverse rule-making also informs the advice we provide to emerging businesses.

Legal considerations along the information flow

Perspective	01 Collection & input	02 Processing & use	03 Provision & sharing
Information	Purposes & basis for collection	Scope of use & authorization	Scope of provision & outsourcing
Contracts	Terms of use	Development & service contracts	Terms & allocation of responsibility
Rights & responsibility	Source of information	Ownership of rights	Ongoing management

We advise on deploying and providing AI services, systems development, terms of use, and the handling of personal and confidential information. By connecting intellectual property, the allocation of responsibility, service providers and internal policies, we translate concepts into contracts and operations. We also address Web3, the metaverse, NFTs and DAOs in light of existing law and business realities.

Protecting and developing what you create.

Intellectual assets

Technology

Content

Brands

Know-how



Protection and use

Clarify rights

Ownership & permitted use

Structure use

Joint development & licensing

Resolve disputes

Infringement & protection

Technology, content, brands and know-how underpin business value. We clarify ownership and permitted uses of these assets. From joint development and licensing to infringement disputes, we consider protection and use together.

Industry-specific business practices and regulation are equally important, including in entertainment, fashion, digital services and healthcare. From planning and production to sales and service delivery, we clarify the parties' rights and responsibilities, developing contracts and responses that reflect how the business operates.

For what matters, today and tomorrow.

Business, family and assets are often interconnected. We begin by listening to what matters most to each client. Whether a business owner's personal affairs or a legal issue arising in everyday life, our approach reflects the individual's circumstances.

We advise on business succession, inheritance and wills, family matters, real estate, damages claims, reputation and privacy. We consider both planning for the future and responding to disputes, carefully explaining how the available choices may affect our clients' lives and businesses.

Connecting Japan and the world.

We connect advice on Japanese law with insight into local legal systems and business practices. Through alliances with independent law firms and an accounting firm in Asia, the Middle East and Hawaii, we support overseas expansion, investment, contracts, operations and disputes. By aligning objectives on the Japanese side with local conditions, we shape the support required for each matter.



Tokyo　Alliance law firms　Alliance accounting firm

The following two pages identify our overseas alliance firms and their professional roles.

Connecting with local expertise in Asia.

Through our alliances, including our strategic alliance with DLG Law Corporation in South Korea, we coordinate support for market entry, investment, operations and disputes, informed by local law and business practices.

Country / territory · City	Independent alliance law firms
Vietnam Ho Chi Minh City	PANTHEON LAW
Vietnam Hanoi	NAM VIET LAW FIRM
Taiwan Taipei	World Patent & Trademark Law Office
South Korea Seoul	DLG Law Corporation
Thailand Bangkok	Siam International Legal Advisors (SILA) Nititorn Kaewto Law Office
Philippines Makati, Metro Manila	DivinaLaw

All overseas locations listed are offices of independently operated alliance firms.

The Middle East and the Pacific.

We share the business objectives of clients in Japan and bring together legal and accounting expertise as each matter requires.

Country / territory · City	Alliance firms · Professional role
Bahrain Manama	Qarooni & Partners Independent alliance law firm
United Arab Emirates Dubai	Marwa Suliman Advocates And Legal Consultants (MSALC) Independent alliance law firm
United States · Hawaii Honolulu	OCCPA LLC Independent alliance accounting firm

Foreign-law and accounting services are provided in collaboration with local professionals, in accordance with the qualifications and regulatory requirements of each jurisdiction.

Kenshiro Michishita



Admitted to practice in Japan in 2017, Kenshiro Michishita worked on corporate misconduct, litigation, general corporate matters and cross-border cases at Nishimura & Asahi. He established SAKURA Law Office in 2020.

His work spans corporate law and emerging fields, including contributions to metaverse guidelines and public-private discussions. He values legal precision that translates into workable solutions, connecting practice and research to build the firm's knowledge and develop its people.

Attorney-at-law (Japan) | Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association

Career

2013	Graduated from the Department of Law, Faculty of Law, Hitotsubashi University
2015	Completed the law school program at Keio University
2017	Admitted in Japan; joined Nishimura & Asahi
2020	Established SAKURA Law Office
2025	Registered as a Gyoseishoshi (Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist)

Deeper knowledge. Stronger practice.

SAKURA Institute of Legal Studies



The SAKURA Institute of Legal Studies is a forum for legal practitioners, researchers and corporate legal professionals to share knowledge. Bringing practice and scholarship together, it explores emerging legal challenges.

Its research themes include corporate law, AI and data, intellectual property, startup law (including equity financing and ownership structures), international transactions, and compliance. Questions arising in practice inform research, and the resulting insights feed back into practice.

Practice → Research → Knowledge sharing

Experience in individual matters — Building a body of knowledge — Dialogue across disciplines

Back into practice

Explore the Institute

Bringing practice to rule-making.

As new technologies become part of everyday life, contracts supporting individual transactions need to be complemented by shared rules that foster confidence in their use. We also contribute to discussions on how such frameworks should be designed and applied.

Creative activity

Avatar rights

Connections to cities

2022

Virtual City Guidelines and public-private dialogue

Kenshiro Michishita contributed to the original Virtual City Guidelines in 2022 and to version 2.0, published in 2023. In 2022, he was also appointed as an expert member of the public-private council addressing new legal issues concerning content and related matters in the metaverse, where he examined topics including creative activity and avatar rights.

Read the announcement

Legal Update

Understanding law and business.

In Legal Update, Managing Attorney Kenshiro Michishita examines legal issues affecting business through the lens of contracts, operations and decision-making. A co-authored article on legal issues in the metaverse appeared in the May 15, 2023 issue of Kin'yu Shoji Hanrei, a Japanese financial and commercial case-law journal.

01 Generative AI and corporate governance →

AI in business: information management, internal policies and contracts.

02 M&A and share purchase agreements →

Connecting price, representations and warranties, indemnities and closing conditions to the overall transaction.

03 International arbitration and disputes →

Arbitration clauses and evidence; recognition and enforcement of awards.

A conversation.
A clear way forward.

You do not need to have every legal issue mapped out before contacting us. We listen to what has happened, what you want to achieve and any time-sensitive matters, then work with you to determine the next steps.

01

Understand the context and objectives

We review the parties, background, documents and deadlines, and clarify what matters most to you and the outcome you seek.

02

Agree on strategy and responsibilities

We discuss the options and outlook, scope of work, fees and communication arrangements, and consider the team required for the matter.

03

Support decisions and implementation

We manage negotiations and procedures, keeping you informed of developments and decisions required. Where needed, we also help review contracts and organizational arrangements.

Contact us →

Tokyo.
Roppongi.



Photo source

Established in January 2020, we moved to our current Tokyo office in June 2023.

From Tokyo, we work with specialists in Japan and abroad to address the needs of businesses and individuals.

Direct access from Roppongi-itchome Station on the Tokyo Metro Namboku Line

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SAKURA

SAKURA Law Office

Let’s start with a conversation.

From ongoing legal counsel to individual transactions and disputes.
Tell us about your matter, and we will explain the team and approach.

Contact form

sakura-lawyers.jp/en/contact/

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