

Keitaro KUSUNOKI

Keitaro is a co-founder of the firm, and represents Japanese and multinational clients in a broad range of cross-border matters with a focus on the practice areas of mergers & acquisitions, regulatory, commercial transactions and international dispute resolutions. His clients span across industry sectors, including manufacturing, information technologies, gaming and e-sports, fintech, infrastructures, logistics, energy technologies, restaurants and catering, healthcare, manufacturing, apparel and public sector.

From 2001 to 2003, he was stationed in Budapest, Hungary, to support Japanese companies doing business in the Central-Eastern European region, and advised the government agencies of such region as well.

He spoke at the annual conferences of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA) in 2012 (Indonesia) and 2016 (Sri Lanka), and contributed to the World Bank's report "[Procuring Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership](#)" in 2018, and the World Bank's website "[Benchmarking Infrastructure Development](#)" in 2024.

Keitaro handled a number of significant matters including the followings:

- Advised a Japanese listed IT company in a MBO transaction;
- Chaired an independent committee appointed pursuant to the TSE rules regarding issuance of new shares by way of third party allotment by a listed apparel company;
- Advised an owner of a group of Japanese companies with a major presence in senior home and nursery school sectors in its sale of the main businesses to a major European PE fund;
- Advised a major U.S. fund in its approximately USD 3 billion acquisition via bidding of 13 hotels in Japan from a Japanese air carrier;
- Advised an Australian infrastructure fund and its affiliates in their approximately USD 450 million acquisition, and their subsequent sale, of a 19.89 percent stake in a Japanese listed airport building management company;
- Prepared a legal opinion regarding certain Japanese law issues to submit to a U.K. court in connection with a litigation case between a Japanese company and a U.K. company; and
- Advised a foreign government in connection with a series of Japanese regulatory issues.



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Experience

- Apr 1998- Boutique Law Firm (Tokyo)
- Jul 2001- Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (Budapest, Hungary)
- Nov 2004- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (Tokyo)
- Dec 2012- KUSUNOKI & IWASAKI (firm name changed in Nov 2018)

Officer Positions

- Outside Director: FP Corporation (June 2024-)
- Outside Director: TOCAD ENERGY Co., Ltd. (June 2020-)
- Outside Company Auditor: CSMEN Co., Ltd. (May 2019-May 2023)

Education

- LL.M. in Corporate Law, New York University School of Law (2001)
- LL.B., Waseda University (1994)

Bar Admissions

- Japan (1998), New York (2003)

Languages

- Japanese, English