



MOMO-O, MATSUO & NAMBA



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www.mmn-law.gr.jp/en/

Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba

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Truly Indispensable! A Mid-sized Corporate Law Powerhouse deemed “Truly Indispensable” by its Clients

Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba (“MMN”) was established in 1989 by its three name partners, Mr. Shigeaki Momo-o, Mr. Makoto Matsuo and Mr. Shuichi Namba. The firm is proud of being deemed “truly indispensable” by its clients. Although the trend for domestic law firms in Japan has been to dramatically increase in size, MMN has intentionally maintained itself as a mid-sized firm practicing at the most sophisticated level in many areas of law while retaining the most positive attributes of a powerhouse “boutique” firm.

Nationally and Internationally Recognized Experts

MMN attorneys are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields of practice. “This expertise is fundamental to why our clients consider us indispensable,” states Shuichi Namba, managing partner and an industry leader in the field of M&A.

The firm prides itself on its ability to meet the demands of a very diverse client base operating in an ever-changing world economy and offers a complete array of corporate and commercial legal services to its domestic and multinational clients. MMN and its attorneys have received long-standing recognition for excellence in key practice areas such as complex litigation and international arbitration, general corporate and M&A, bankruptcy, antitrust, real estate, labor and employment, and intellectual property including brand protection.

Cultivating the Right Environment

Mr. Namba explains how the firm cultivates its attorneys and how this is intertwined with MMN’s approach to the legal services industry: “We provide our young attorneys with opportunities to have direct contact with clients from the very start of their careers. This enables them to understand and adopt the ‘MMN philosophy’ of legal services which we try to implement every day. In summary, our philosophy

is that only a sense of ownership and responsibility will result in work product that consistently surpasses client expectations.”

MMN believes that the benefits of operating as a mid-sized law firm are myriad and, in particular, intricately linked to the education and training of its younger attorneys. According to Nobuaki Mukai, a partner who is internationally recognized in the area of competition law, “There is no manual on how to render services as an attorney, and it is not something that can be taught in the classroom. New attorneys learn and grow from exposure to the partners and older associates with whom they work. The ideal environment is one in which each attorney is able to fully develop while being substantively engaged in a wide range of practice areas. We believe our size and team approach is absolutely optimal to foster this dynamic.”

Another benefit lies in sharing and maintaining the long-standing culture of the firm, namely knowledge of the specific and often complicated demands of an extremely diverse and international clientele, many clients of which MMN has represented since the firm’s inception. “A sudden expansion in the size of our firm would most likely be detrimental to our client relationships and the quality and continuity of our service,” adds Dr. Mukai.

International Network

One of MMN’s strengths is assisting the ever-increasing number of Japanese companies on M&A transactions outside of Japan or regarding issues inherent in doing business internationally. The firm is especially well-versed in advising clients on legal matters in Asian countries.

In this regard, MMN is the only member of Interlaw in Japan. Chambers Global ranks Interlaw in the top band of law-firm networks. The network is comprised of preeminent independent law firms totaling 7,500+ lawyers based in over 150 cities around the world. It is as if MMN has a “branch office” in almost every corner of the world.

“Swift responses to major changes in rules or

practices that serve as global standards are required of today’s international lawyer,” states Junya Naito, a partner and internationally-recognized attorney in the field of arbitration. “The information sharing among Interlaw attorneys makes the network an invaluable resource to stay on top of developments,” Mr. Naito believes. He continues: “In the arena of international arbitration, the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration is now widely referred to as a guideline, and best practices corresponding to such guideline are becoming well-established globally. As attorneys who represent international clients, we must rapidly understand and implement such changes. Interlaw has consistently provided an invaluable platform to exchange ideas on how to address shifts in the law and its practice like this.”

Collaborative Relationship and Fearless Advocacy

“Although our firm is home to many leading experts, teamwork with the client is absolutely essential to achieving any kind of success,” says Masao Torikai, a partner in general corporate law who is also one of Japan’s foremost labor and employment attorneys. “I think one of MMN’s greatest strengths is its ability to achieve harmony and balance between the firm’s attorneys and the organizations we represent based on a collaborative relationship,” he states.

Mr. Namba agrees. “The legal issues facing industry today require responses to all sorts of issues, whether international or domestic, and it is essential for us to sort out the risks from various viewpoints working hand-in-hand with our clients the entire way without ever giving up,” he says.

“In a word,” he continues, “we have to be ‘fearless’ and spare no effort in pursuing the best interests of our clients.”

Firm Information

History Established in April 1989
Attorneys 21 Partners, 3 Of Counsel, 1 Counsel, 1 Advisor,
29 Associates and 2 Foreign Attorneys

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.mmn-law.gr.jp/en/> or
contact Junya Naito, Managing Partner: naito@mmn-law.gr.jp

Shigeaki Momo-o

Partner

Shigeaki Momo-o co-founded Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba in 1989. Mr. Momo-o is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished and trusted corporate transactional and litigation attorneys in Japan. A renowned bankruptcy practitioner, having served as the trustee on such bankruptcies as Sanyo Securities, Nagasakiya and Huis Ten Bosch, he was appointed as a member of the Bankruptcy Law Committee of the Legislative Council of Japan's Ministry of Justice. Mr. Momo-o has held numerous outside appointments as independent director and auditor. He is also credited for his instrumental role in developing interlaw into what is now a top-ranked international law firm network. Mr. Momo-o's numerous recognitions include The Best Lawyers in Japan for Insolvency and Reorganization and special recognition as its "Lawyer of the Year."



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; International Transactions/Trade; Restructuring/Insolvency

Makoto Matsuo

Partner

Makoto Matsuo co-founded Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba in 1989. Mr. Matsuo is an internationally-recognized practitioner and lecturer in the fields of antitrust, corporate and M&A, insurance law, intellectual property, pharmaceutical affairs law and white collar crime. He has handled numerous international antitrust cases working alone and in concert with European and U.S. counsel. Mr. Matsuo's pioneering work in the area of brand protection and anti-counterfeiting led to the firm's preeminence in this field. In addition to defending and advising clients with respect to white-collar crimes under the Companies Act and antitrust and securities laws, Mr. Matsuo has held numerous outside appointments as independent director and auditor. His recognitions include Chambers Asia Pacific for Competition/Antitrust: Japan, The Best Lawyers in Japan for Corporate and M&A, Who's Who Legal for Competition Law, and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific for Corporate and M&A.



PRACTICE AREAS Competition/Antitrust; Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Insurance; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; Pharmaceutical Affairs; Regulatory Compliance; White Collar Crime

Shuichi Namba

Partner

Shuichi Namba, long considered one of Japan's foremost corporate attorneys, co-founded Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba in 1989. Mr. Namba has extensive experience in dealing with international legal matters and particular expertise in various types of transactions between Japanese companies and foreign companies, including joint ventures, licensing agreements and M&A. In addition, he has handled numerous large-scale commercial litigation and arbitration cases and insolvency-related matters and regularly acts as an expert on Japanese law in international legal proceedings. He has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in Japan in the areas of Corporate and M&A; and Private Equity, Private Funds and Venture Capital. In addition, Mr. Namba received "high evaluation" from The Legal 500 Asia Pacific in the category of Corporate and M&A.



PRACTICE AREAS Banking/Finance; Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; International Transactions/Trade; Investment Funds; Real Estate

Yuriko Kanematsu

Partner

Yuriko Kanematsu practices in the areas of corporate law, labor and employment and intellectual property, with an emphasis on anti-counterfeiting and brand protection as well as trademark and unfair competition matters. With over twenty-five years of experience working with foreign IP owners to combat counterfeiters and infringers in the Japanese market, Ms. Kanematsu has been a leading member of the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition in addition to Union des Fabricants Tokyo. She represents approximately 20 world-renowned fashion brands and has prevailed on many cases resulting in the cancellation of trademark registrations that were free-riding on global trademarks or successful settlements involving injunctions and damages from counterfeiters. Ms. Kanematsu maintains a close relationship with the Japan Customs and actively works with it on border enforcement issues. She is one of the pioneers in the field of intellectual property enforcement online in Japan and is among the first lawyers in Japan to successfully obtain the identification information of a counterfeiter from an Internet service provider. Apart from intellectual property, Ms. Kanematsu is currently a member of the Radio Regulatory Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Intellectual Property

Junya Naito

Partner

Junya Naito works in the areas of domestic and international litigation and arbitration, corporate and M&A, international transactions, and restructuring and insolvency. A globally recognized expert in the area of international arbitration, Mr. Naito regularly advises domestic and international corporations and has extensive experience in ICC, JCAA, SIAC and AAA arbitral proceedings as both arbitrator and counsel. Mr. Naito's recognitions include Chambers Global and Chambers Asia Pacific for Dispute Resolution and Best Lawyers in Japan for Arbitration and Mediation; Litigation; and Corporate and M&A. He has also received Who's Who Legal recognitions in the areas of Arbitration and Asset Recovery. Mr. Naito's contributions to public work include serving as an examiner for the National Bar Examination of Japan in charge of commercial law from 2012 to 2015; and an appointment as a professor of civil advocacy at the Legal Training and Research Institute of the Supreme Court of Japan from 2008 to April 2012. He currently serves as a Member of the Tokyo District Court Committee.



PRACTICE AREAS Litigation and Arbitration; Corporate/M&A; International Transactions; Restructuring/Insolvency

Masao Torikai

Partner

Masao Torikai has over 20 years of international legal experience in general corporate law and specializes in labor and employment matters. Mr. Torikai routinely represents the management of publicly-held multinational corporations in labor and employment dispute resolution and litigation including collective bargaining and issues involving Labor Standards Inspection Offices. He also advises clients on general corporate and commercial law matters with particular expertise in the pharmaceutical and nursing-care industries. Mr. Torikai currently serves as an independent director of both Torii Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Tsukui Corporation.



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; Pharmaceutical Affairs

Nobuaki Mukai

Partner

Nobuaki Mukai is an internationally-recognized practitioner and lecturer in the field of competition law and antitrust. Dr. Mukai has represented both corporations and individuals in defence of international and domestic antitrust violations, both administrative and criminal, including the Freight Forwarders case, the Auto Parts cases, the Maritime Transporters case, and the Electronic Parts case. In addition, Dr. Mukai has litigated or defended numerous antitrust civil cases in industries such as construction, manufacturing, retail and transportation. He has also advised on M&A transactions, strategic business alliances, and unilateral or bilateral business practices—including implementation of business policies or various vertical restraints—in various industrial sectors from a competition law perspective. Dr. Mukai is also admitted to the Japan Patent Attorneys Association and routinely handles transactions and disputes for clients in intellectual property. He also counsels clients on general corporate and commercial law matters. Dr. Mukai is routinely recognized by Chambers and Partners, The Best Lawyers in Japan and Who's Who Legal for his work in competition law and antitrust.



PRACTICE AREAS Competition/Antitrust; Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; White Collar Crime

Koichi Nakatani

Partner

Koichi Nakatani has wide-ranging international legal experience in corporate law and M&A and specializes in intellectual property and IT law matters, including data privacy laws. With his extensive background as an in-house attorney for IBM Japan, Ltd., Mr. Nakatani represents many domestic and international IT companies in litigation (including IP infringement cases), licensing, contract negotiations and provides overall counseling. He is a member of the Law and Computers Association. In addition, Mr. Nakatani has represented many foreign investors and multinationals in M&A transactions and also routinely advises clients on employment matters. He is a widely published author or co-author of various articles and papers, including "Due Diligence and Corporate Governance" (LexisNexis UK), "Patent Claim Interpretation—Global Edition" (Thomson Reuters) and "Employment & Labour Law" (Global Legal Group). He serves ITOH International Patent Office as an of-counsel and listed company Billing Systems as a statutory auditor.



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; IT and Telecommunications/Media

Shinichiro Uemura

Partner

Shinichiro Uemura has extensive experience in the areas of domestic and international real estate transactions, tax, corporate law and M&A. Mr. Uemura regularly advises corporations and individual investors on tax and other legal issues attendant to domestic and foreign investments. He is especially renowned for his work advising clients with operations and investments in Southeast Asia with particular expertise in matters related to business expansion in the Philippines and Vietnam.



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; International Transactions/Trade; Real Estate; Tax

Tetsuhiro Nishiyama

Partner

Tetsuhiro Nishiyama's practice encompasses both complex business litigation and corporate transactions. Mr. Nishiyama is a trusted advisor to numerous corporations on both the Companies Act and the Insurance Business Act, in addition to regularly providing counsel on M&A, joint ventures and strategic alliances.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate Governance; M&A; Dispute Resolution; Corporate and Commercial Transactions; Insurance

**Koji Ohe**

Partner

Koji Ohe practices primarily in the areas of general corporate, pharmaceutical affairs, intellectual property, bankruptcy and reorganization and international trade law. Mr. Ohe's unique experience includes working for the Japanese government in the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), where he was critically involved in handling international trade disputes especially before the World Trade Organization. Mr. Ohe routinely advises corporations on risk management issues. He is admitted to the Japan Patent Attorneys Association. Mr. Ohe has been recognized by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific for his work in Antitrust and Competition law.



PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; Pharmaceutical Affairs; Restructuring/Insolvency, Risk Management

Tsuyoshi Suzuki

Partner

Tsuyoshi Suzuki's areas of practice include complex litigation and arbitration, both international and domestic. Mr. Suzuki regularly represents clients at ICC and JCAA arbitrations both in Japan and internationally. He served as the President of Young Japan Association of Arbitrators from 2015 to 2019.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution



Yohei Yamada

Partner

Yohei Yamada practices in the fields of both complex business litigation and corporate transactions. Mr. Yamada's wide-ranging practice involves the representation of multinational and domestic clients in areas such as corporate finance, joint venture, reorganization and M&A, as well as high-stakes litigation related to M&A. He recently published "The Companies Act from the standpoint of Corporate Governance" as one of its general editors.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Personal Information; Intellectual Property



Norito Ohori

Partner

Norito Ohori has extensive experience in the area of corporate law and commercial transactions, M&A, and construction related matters. Mr. Ohori served as in-house general counsel for a global plant company. In this capacity, he gained practical experience in the field of plant construction and public procurement in addition to handling myriad legal and regulatory issues facing international corporations. He currently serves as an independent director of Yuki Gosei Kogyo Co., Ltd.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Construction Law; Dispute Resolution; Commercial Transactions/Trade; Projects and Energy



Takayuki Matsuo

Partner

Takayuki Matsuo's wide-ranging practice encompasses general corporate, M&A, commercial transactions and dispute resolution, especially for foreign clients in English or Mandarin. Mr. Matsuo also serves as a part-time lecturer at top Japanese universities.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Information, Communication and Technology; Public Affairs; White Collar Crime; and Medical Law



Rin Moriguchi

Partner

Rin Moriguchi has extensive experience in the areas of financial regulation, securities law and competition law in addition to corporate/M&A and complex commercial litigation. Mr. Moriguchi served as a specialist officer in the Financial Markets Division of the Financial Services Agency (FSA), where he was critically involved in legislative amendments to Japan's securities and exchange law. His experience with the FSA led to specialized expertise on issues relating to the financial industry and stock exchanges, governmental investigations, sophisticated financial transactions and shareholder disputes.

PRACTICE AREAS Banking & Finance; Capital Markets; Competition/Antitrust; Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Regulatory Compliance



Hirotohi Kakumoto

Partner

Hirotohi Kakumoto's areas of practice include internal and external investigations into window dressing and other corporate frauds, venture capital and private equity, bankruptcy, dispute resolution and general corporate matters. Mr. Kakumoto regularly advises foreign and domestic creditors on bankruptcy matters and is elected as bankruptcy trustees. He also maintains a robust complex commercial litigation practice and is expert in provisional attachment and provisional disposition. Mr. Kakumoto is a general editor of the recently published book, "Legal Affairs relating to Financing by Venture Companies."

PRACTICE AREAS Internal and External Investigations; Venture Capital and Private Equity; Restructuring and Insolvency; Dispute Resolution; M&A



Nobuo Sugimoto

Partner

Nobuo Sugimoto has counseled clients on various types of crossborder transactions including M&A, joint venture, public procurement, and construction projects. He also has broad experience in the areas of corporate crisis management and regulatory compliance in addition to advising and defending clients on antitrust cases.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Employment; International Transactions/Trade; Regulatory Compliance; Competition/Antitrust



Takashi Kobayashi

Partner

Takashi Kobayashi's practice comprises antitrust, M&A, litigation, intellectual property and general corporate matters, both international and domestic. His antitrust experience includes international cartel investigations, merger filings, unfair trade practices, licenses and strategic alliances. Mr. Kobayashi regularly advises clients on M&A matters, with a particular focus on advising clients on acquisitions and expansion in Asia and other regions. He also routinely provides compliance advice on anti-corruption/bribery and international trade law.

PRACTICE AREAS Competition/Antitrust; Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Intellectual Property; International Transactions/Trade; Regulatory Compliance



Yoichi Kikuchi

Of Counsel

Yoichi Kikuchi has served as a judge and handled innumerable civil cases since 1978. Mr. Kikuchi served as the first secretary (legal attaché) of the Japanese Embassy in the Netherlands. He also served as Counselor for Civil Affairs, Ministry of Justice, where he was responsible for legislative works relating to Japan's Commercial Code. Mr. Kikuchi retired from the judiciary in 2018, when he served as the President of the Hiroshima High Court. Upon retirement, he registered as an attorney-at-law. He currently serves as a Special Member of Central Committee for Adjustment of Construction Work Disputes (Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) the Chairman of Construction Industry Transaction Improvement Organization and an Independent Audit & Supervisory Board Member, Marubeni Corporation.

PRACTICE AREAS Corporate/M&A; Dispute Resolution; Corporate Governance; International Transactions; Employment; Administrative Law



Toshiyuki Nambu

Advisor

Before joining Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba as an advisor in December 2019, Toshiyuki Nambu enjoyed a distinguished career with the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) spanning over 35 years. During his time with the JFTC, Mr. Nambu held various senior positions relating to enforcement of the Antimonopoly Act including Senior Investigator (1996-97), Director of the Surcharge Affairs Office, Director General of the Criminal Investigation Department (2011) and Director General of the Investigation Bureau (2018-19). He also oversaw work on bilateral and multilateral international-related affairs of the JFTC including the ICN and the OECD as the Director of the International Affairs Division (2004-07) and the Deputy Secretary General for International Affairs (2011-16).

PRACTICE AREAS Competition/Antitrust



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