



Partner

Shiro Kuniya

Japan (1982)

New York (1987)

Location

Tokyo Office and Osaka Office

Practice Areas

Corporate and M&A

General Corporate Practice / M&A, Reorganization, and Business Alliance / Corporate Governance/Shareholders Meeting

Risk Management & Compliance

Corporate Investigation / Protection of Personal Information / Information Security and Cybersecurity

Intellectual Property Law

License and Franchise

Bankruptcy and Restructuring

Restructuring, Rehabilitation, and Insolvency

Competition and Antitrust

Government Investigations / Competition/Consumer Protection Compliance

Dispute Resolution

Corporate Litigations, Disputes and D&O Liabilities / Product Liability / Tax Litigation / International Dispute Resolution / International Arbitration

Finance and Insurance

Insurance / Structured Finance / Project Finance

International Practice

International Commercial Contracts / Trade Remedies (Anti-Dumping, Countervailing Duties and Safeguards)

Energy and Infrastructure

Construction / Infrastructure / Electricity / Gas

Industries

Real Estate / Environmental Law / Information Technology, Internet and Telecommunications

Private Practice

Civil Actions and Consultations

Life Science, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare

Research and Development / Business-Academia Collaboration / Marketing Regulation / Distribution Strategy / Labelling and Advertising regulation / Dispute Resolution / Crisis Management / M&A / Health and Nursing Care / Cosmetics & Health/Beauty Care

Personal Data, AI, IT and Digital

Protection of Personal Information and Privacy / Information Security, Cybersecurity / Data Breach & Incident Response

Sustainability and ESG

Sustainability Governance / Business and Human Rights / Environmental Law

Professional Summary

Shiro Kuniya has been highly acclaimed;

Ranked among Nikkei Business Journal 's top ten most highly regarded lawyers in Japan in the areas of "Corporate and M&A" and "International Transaction and Dispute Resolution".

Listed as Leading Lawyer for M&A in IFLR 2015, for Financial & Corporate Law in IFLR 2017 (International Finance Law Review)

Listed as leading individuals in "Corporate / M&A" section and "Dispute Resolution" section, Chambers Asia Pacific, Asia, Pacific 's Leading Lawyers for Business, (since 2009).

Listed as leading individuals in "Corporate and M&A" section, the Asia Pacific Legal 500 (since 2009).

Listed in Corporate and M&A, International Business Transactions, Litigation, Intellectual Property and Trade section in "Best Lawyers" (since 2008).

"Project Finance of the Year 1999" (Universal Studio Japan Theme Park Project) by Euromoney.

Major Cases Handled

Denso vs. Tax Authority, Japan, Tax Haven Litigation re. Singapore Regional Headquarters (Supreme Court supported Denso and rescinded tax charge)

Livedoor Co., Ltd. vs. Nippon Broadcasting System, Inc., Provisional Injunction against Issuance of the Right to Subscribe to New Shares (Tokyo High Court)

Nireco Corporation, Provisional Injunction against Poison Pill Scheme (Tokyo District Court and Tokyo High Court) (The first case in Japan to invalidate poison pill)

Business Alliance between Nasdaq and Osaka Securities Exchange

Panasonic (f/k/a Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) Pension Fund Cases (Osaka High Court and Supreme Court supported the reform of Pension Program started by the founder, Mr. Konosuke Matsushita)

Establishment and Operation of Universal Studio Japan Theme Park and its Project Finance (Awarded "Project Finance of the Year 1999" by "Euro Money")

Kansai International Airport Project

Lehman Brothers Japan Civil Rehabilitation

Special Mediation for World Trade Center and Asia Trade Center

Willcom, Inc., Corporate Rehabilitation (the biggest insolvency case in telecommunication industry in Japan)

Kyoto University iPS (imputed pluripotent stem cell) License Agreement
(Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, Professor of Kyoto University, was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his research on iPS stem cell.)

Education & Professional Experience

April 2002 - February 2023
Managing Partner, Oh-Ebashi LPC & Partners

September 1986 - 2002

Partner, Oh-Ebashi Law Offices

September 1986 - August 1987

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, New York, Los Angeles

1986

Georgetown University Law Center (Master of Law, LL.M.)

April 1982 - August 1986

Associate, Oh-Ebashi Law Offices

1982

Legal Training and Research Institute (Supreme Court), Japan

1980

Kyoto University (LL.B.)

Activities

(1) Bar Association

2019 - 2023

Chairman of Board of Committees on International Affairs and Strategies, Japan Federation of Bar Associations

2011 - 2012

President, Inter-Pacific Bar Association

2009 - 2010

Vice-President, Inter-Pacific Bar Association

2008 - 2012

Chairman of International Relations Committee, Japan Federation of Bar Associations

1995 - 1998

Chairman of Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee, Inter-Pacific Bar Association

1987 - 2013

American Bar Association (ABA)

(2) Arbitration and Dispute Resolution

May 2012 - present

Arbitrator, Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC)

2010 - present

Arbitrator, The Asian International Arbitration Center

June 2009 - present

Member of the Board, The Japan Commercial Arbitration Association

2004 - present

Arbitrator, The Japan Commercial Arbitration Association

1998 - 2006

Arbitrator, Singapore International Arbitration Center

1997 - present

Arbitrator, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center

(3) Board Member/Audit & Supervisory Board Member

June 2025 - present

Member of the Board, JERA Co., Inc.

June 2021 - present

Member of the Board, TOA Corporation

April 2020 - present

Auditor, CiRA (Center for iPS Cell Research and Application) Foundation, Kyoto University

June 2016 - June 2022
Member of the Board, Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

June 2013 - June 2016
Audit & Supervisory Board Member, Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

June 2013 - June 2021
Member of the Board, Sony Financial Group Inc.

June 2012 - March 2020
Member of the Board, Ebara Corporation

March 2012 - present
Member of the Board, NEXON Co., Ltd.

April 2011 - present
Member of the Board, Japan Century Symphony Orchestra

2006 - 2010
Audit & Supervisory Board Member, Nidec Corporation

1999 - present
Auditor, Medical Research Institute KITANO HOSPITAL, PIIF Tazuke-Kofukai

1997 - 2000
Audit & Supervisory Board Member, Sunstar Inc.

(4) University, Institute & Committee, etc.

2020 - 2024
Member of Advisory Board, Japan International Dispute Resolution Center (JIDRC)

July 2019 - July 2023
President, The Asian Society of International Law (Japan Society)

2015 - 2016
Committee Member to Review International Taxation for Cross-border Business Operation of Japanese Companies/BEPS Project (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

2015 - 2021
Chairman, Corporate Law Practice Research Committee (Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice)

2014
Member of Special Committee to Review Competition Policy and State Aid (Japanese Fair Trade Commission)

2013-
Member of Advisory Board, Business Law Department of Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy, Hitotsubashi University

June 2013 - June 2019
Vice President, The Asian Society of International Law (Japan Society)

2012 - 2021
Member of Georgetown University Law Center, Asian Law Alumni Advisory Board

2008 - 2009
Chairman, Research Grant Program Nomination Committee, The Toyota Foundation

2003 - 2014
Advisor for Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation

2001 - 2002
Member of Management Council, Kyushu University, Faculty of Law

1999
Member of Special Committee of Economic Council for Prime Minister of Japan

1998 - 1999
Institute of Intellectual Property, ADR committee

1995 - 2000
Adjunct Professor at Kyushu University, Faculty of Law (Master of Law, LL.M. Course)

1990 - 2011

1987 - 1999

Regular Coordinator and Moderator at Comparative Law Center (Japan) (Programs on International Transactions, Shareholders ' Derivative Suit, Products Liability Law, Entertainment Law, Information Industry Business & Law, etc.)

1982 - 2014

Japanese Association of the Law of Civil Procedure

(5) Third-Party Committee, Special (Investigation) Committee

(Corporate Misconduct, Accounting Irregularity, Data ・ Personal Information Protection)

Chairman of Special Investigation Committee, NTT West, Inc. (2023 - 2024)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, Japan Display Inc. (2019 - 2020)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2019)

Chairman of Special Investigation Committee, Naigai Co., Ltd. (2019)

Chairman of Special Investigation Committee, Sumitomo Precision Products Co., Ltd. (2019 - 2020)

Member of Special Investigation Committee, Kurabo Industries Ltd. (2015)

(TOB、 MBO)

Member of Special Committee, Joban Kosan Co., Ltd. (Spa Resort Hawaiians TOB) (2024)

Chairman of Special Committee, Sony Financial Group Inc. (TOB) (2020)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, Jupiter Telecommunications Co., Ltd. (TOB) (2012 - 2013)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, Japan Wind Development Co., Ltd. (MBO) (2015)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, Image Holdings Co., Ltd. (MBO) (2010 - 2011)

Chairman of Third Party Committee, VarioSecure Networks , Inc . (MBO) (2009)

Publications

2021.11.30	Joint Venture Legislation and Legal Practice in Four Southeast Asian Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam
2019.12	International Legal Practice
2019.11	Corporate Governance in Four Countries in Southeast Asia
2016.12	Review of Japanese Corporate Governance Code
2013.08	Breach of Obligation to Provide Information in the Negotiation of Business Alliance Agreement and Available Remedies
2009.10	Role of Corporate Counsel
2006.04	Guide to International Legal Practice (1) to (11)
2006.02	Practice of M&A: Legal Due Diligence
2005.01	Analysis of Legal Risk
2003.07	Whistleblowing, Compliance and Role of Corporate Auditor
1999.08	Corporate Alliance and Restructuring with Shareholders Agreement
1999.05	Year 2000 - Liability of Manufacturer/Vendor and Defense
1999.01	Arbitration in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
1998.07	Copyright for Music and Audio-Visual
1997.05	Service of Process in International Litigations
1997.01	Japanese Laws and Practice of Anti-Dumping
1996.11	Bankruptcy and Protection of Licensee - Termination of Executory Contract
1996.03	Japanese Laws and Practice of Anti-Dumping
1995.05	Amendment of Code of Civil Procedure/Settlement Procedure
1995.01	Conduct of Arbitration by the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association - A Practical Guide
1992.01	Joint Venture in Japan

1990.03	Protecting American Technology Transferred to Japan, including Patent, Trademark and Licensing Issues
1987.11	Commentaries on Sales under Japanese Civil Code Commentaries and Cases
1985.06	Introduction to U.S. Laws of Corporation

Seminars/Lectures

2025.02.18	"Rule of Law ", The New Industry Research Organization (NIRO)
2025.01.22	Role of Lawyer in Contemporary Society, Kyoto University, Law Faculty
2024.12.16	Governance Summit 2024 - Business Strategy and the Stance of Board of Directors to Pave the Way in a Challenging Era
2023.12.11	Governance Summit 2023 - Corporate Governance to Support Innovative Strategy
2023.01.18	Role of Lawyer in Contemporary Society, Kyoto University, Law Faculty
2022.10.04	Governance Summit 2022 - Japanese Corporate Governance Reforms in Times of Crisis
2022.02.21	Disputes over Information System and Software Development
2021.10.08	Governance Summit 2021 - Cooperate Governance for Sustainable Society
2021.09.24	【Online Seminar】Series of M&A Legal Practice Seminars (1): M&A Strategy and Points to Note in Legal Practice
2021.07.16	【Online Seminar】Court Cases on Core System and Software Development
2021.07.16	【Online Seminar】Series of Seminars on Latest Court Decisions (1): Dispute over Development of Information Systems/Software
2021.06.05	Symposium "How Did and Will the Judiciary Overcome the Covid-19 Crisis?" - The role of IT in the civil judicial system during emergencies -
2021.05.28	International Dispute Resolution Seminar, Practical Course: "Practical Usage of International Arbitration - Strategy, Tactics and Points to Note Based on Actual Arbitration Cases"
2021.05.28	Practice of International Arbitration - Strategy and key issues
2021.01.28	【Online Seminar】International Legal Practice Seminar (1): Differences and Commonalities between International Legal Practice and Domestic Legal Practice
2021.01.13	Role of Lawyer in Society , Kyoto University , Law Faculty
2020.10.06 ~ 2020.10.13	【Online Seminar】In-House Community eCongress Japan
2019.07.31	【Tokyo】Risk Management & Compliance Seminar Frequent mistakes in handling of corporate (organizational) scandals
2019.07.25	【Osaka】Risk Management & Compliance Seminar Practical handling of corporate scandals and establishment of preventive measures
2019.04.12	【Tokyo】Choice of Arbitration Rules and Drafting Arbitration Clauses in light of the Amendment of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA) Rules
2018.07.19	Crisis Management and Compliance Measures -- Based on the Latest Practices of an American Law Firm
2018.02.28	【Tokyo】The Law on Clinical Research and Compliance
2017.11.28	Current Developments in U.S. Antitrust Laws and Cross-Border M&A ~ Consideration for Japanese Businesses: International Cartel Investigations ・ Litigation ・ M&A Activities ~
2017.09.14	Corporate and Dispute Resolution Practices in Southeast Asia - Osaka
2017.09.13	Corporate and Dispute Resolution Practices in Southeast Asia - Tokyo
2017.06.22	Japanese Plea Bargains and Corporate Legal Practices Thereon
2016.11.28	Compliance - The Comparative Perspective (U.K., France, Germany and Japan)

2016.06	Japanese Lawyer and International Cooperation in legal system in Asia
2015.10.24	Software Program Development/Dispute Resolution (Suruga Bank vs. Japan IBM case)
2015.09	Seminar on the Collection of Claims and the International Commercial Arbitration: Collection of Claims from Chinese Companies and the Use of Arbitration Proceedings - Arbitration Proceedings from the Perspective of an Arbitration Body Official
2015.09.17	Use of Arbitration Proceedings for the Claims against Chinese Companies
2015.07	Corporate Governance Code and Management Ethics "Compliance with the Corporate Governance Code from the Perspective of Outside Officers and Lawyers"
2012	International Arbitration/Conference on Istanbul International Arbitration Center TOBB (the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey)
2012.05.09	Amendment of Civil Code
2012.04.17	Amendment of Civil Code
2012	Globalization and Innovation of Small and Medium Enterprise
2007	License Agreement in Corporate M&A and Reorganization
2006	M&A - Contract Negotiation and Legal Due Diligence
2006	Legal and Practical Issues for 2006 Shareholders Meeting under new Corporate Law
2003	Practical Considerations for Japanese Companies Engaged in International M&A and Other Strategic Transactions
2003	Whistleblowing, Compliance and Role of Corporate Auditor
2002	Merger & Acquisition and Corporate Restructuring
2002	Globalization of Corporate and Financial Legal System and Legal Services
2001	Cross-border Merger & Acquisition
2001	Negotiation - Theory and Practice - License Agreement
2001	Corporate Risk Management and Role of Legal Department, with Analysis of Recent Cases including Yukijirushi and Bridgestone Firestone Cases
2000.11	Cross-border Merger & Acquisition
2000	Corporate Auditor System in Japan, Compared with Legal Systems in the U.S., U.K. and Germany
1999	Year 2000 and Legal Liability
1999	Year 2000 and Legal Liability
1998	Corporate Ethics & Governance, Reform of Board of Directors System
1998	Japan-U.S. Comparison of Bankruptcy and Reorganization Law/Re-start System for Failed Entrepreneurs
1997	Business Investment in the U.S. and Dispute Resolution
1996	Products Liability Law/Legal Analysis & Practice
1996	ADR in the Emerging Economies and Japan
1995	Joint Venture Agreement
1994	Legal Practice and Opportunities in Japan under the New Regime, GATT and Transborder Legal Practice, the New Rules for International Lawyers
1994.04	Technology Transfer and Practice of License Agreement(1994 - 2000)
1993	The Expansion of International Transactions and the Development of International Lawyers' Activities in Japan
1992	Role of Legal Counsel in the U.S.
1991	Legal Aspects of Joint Ventures in Japan
1991	OEM Agreement
1990	International Merger and Acquisition, Joint Venture and Real Estate Investment

1990	Joint Venture and Licensing
1990	Legal Checkpoints in Investing in the US - Focusing on Delaware General Corporation Law
1989	Japan-US Trade and Investment: Strategies for the 1990's Protecting American Technology Transferred to Japan, Including Patent, Trademark and Licensing Issues
1988	International Joint Venture
1988	Amendments to § '337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, ' § 301 of Trade Act, Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988
1988	Know-How License Agreement and EC Block Exemption Rule
1982	Recent Amendment of Japanese Laws of Corporation

Awards

The A-List, Japan's Top 100 Lawyers 2025 (Asia Business Law Journal)

2026 Lawyers of the Year in International Business Transactions by Best Lawyers Japan 2026

The A-List, Japan's Top 100 Lawyers 2024 (Asia Business Law Journal)

2024 Lawyers of the Year in Intellectual Property Law and International Business Transactions by Best Lawyers Japan 2024

Ranked Top 10 Lawyers among the Best Performing Lawyers 2023 (as selected by listed companies) in the “ Business and Human Rights ” category of the “ Corporate Legal Affairs and Lawyer Survey ” by Nikkei, Inc.

Ranked Top 10 Lawyers among the Best Performing Lawyers 2022 (as selected by companies and lawyers) in the International Trade and Economic Security category of the “ Corporate Legal Affairs and Lawyer Survey ” by Nikkei, Inc.

The A-List, Japan's Top 100 Lawyers 2020 (Asia Business Law Journal)

2020 Best Lawyer of the Year in Corporate and M&A for Osaka by Best Lawyers in Japan

Ranked Top 10 Lawyers among the Best Performing Lawyers 2017 (as selected by companies and lawyers) in the International Disputes and Litigation category of the 13th "Corporate Legal Affairs and Lawyer Survey" by Nikkei, Inc.

Listed as Highly Regarded Lawyer for M&A and Project Finance in IFLR 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025 (International Finance Law Review)

Listed as leading individuals in "Corporate/M&A" section and "Dispute Resolution" section, Chambers Asia Pacific, Asia-Pacific's Leading Lawyers for Business, since 2009

Listed as leading individuals in the "Corporate and M&A" section, the Asia Pacific Legal 500, since 2009

Listed in Corporate and M&A, International Business Transactions, Litigation, Intellectual Property and Trade Law section in "Best Lawyers", since 2008

Listed several times since 2000 as "The Ten Best Lawyers in Japan Selected by Listed Companies" in the categories of "Corporate Law, M&A" and "Cross-Border Transactions and Dispute Resolution" (Nikkei Business)

"Project Finance of the Year 1999" award from Euro Money Magazine (for the Universal Studios Japan Project)

Probono

International Cooperation in Legal System (Legislation, Seminar, Lecture) in Asian Countries (eg. Cambodia, Vietnam)

Languages

Japanese and English