



日本女性法律家協会

The Japan Women's Bar Association is a nationwide organization founded in 1950 and comprised of women's lawyers, judges, prosecutors and scholars. Currently, the association has about 900 members.

Purpose and Activities:

As a group of legal experts on women, we are working for developing a fair, harmonious and vibrant society governed by law, as well as improving the status of women. We also promote mutual friendship among members.

Core Activities:

- ① Research on women's status, justice system and laws as well as publication of opinions in connection with them
- ② Exchange with foreign lawyers
- ③ Liaison with other women's organizations
- ④ Legal consultation by bar association members

Profile:

The first female legal profession in Japan was established in 1940, when three female lawyers were appointed. The Association was established in 1950, based on the suggestion of Ms. Mary Eastering, a female lawyer from the United States of America who was at the LS Department of Legal Affairs of GHQ at that time, and more than 10 women, female lawyers, judges, and prosecutors as well as university law researchers, started this association.

Upon its establishment, the Association became a member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers. To date, the Association has served as a branch in Japan of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, and we have sent some Japanese delegates to the United Nations.

The International Federation of Women Lawyers is registered with a non-governmental organization (NGO), an advisory body to the UN Economic and Social Council.



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Our organization and operation:

Officers (elected at the general meeting for a term of two years)

President: 1 person

Vice-President: 4 persons

Secretary: approximately 20 persons

Accounting Audit: 2 members

Annual General Meeting: Once a year

Executive meetings: 10 to 12 times per year

We have an Osaka Branch, organized by members within the jurisdiction of the Osaka High Court.

Who can be a member?

Women who are lawyers, judges, public prosecutors, professors of law or associate professors of law at universities. To become a member, the approval of the board of secretaries is necessary.

Female legal apprentices may become associate members with the approval of the secretariat.

There is also a junior membership system for junior high and high students, university students, law graduate students, etc.

How to apply?

Download the application form from the Japan Women's Bar Association website or contact the Secretariat.

Fee:

Membership fee 3,000 yen

Membership fee: 10,000 yen(annual)

The fee shall be half for three years after admission.



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Activities

1 Public Lecture

Approximately once a year, a lecture is held by inviting distinguished speakers.

2 Research

We choose a timely theme and organize workshops, lectures, and submit our opinions and requests to government entities for law reform.

3 Supporting the younger generation

Once a year, we hold seminars to support the career development of young female lawyers, including apprentices.

4 Legal Consultation Services

Experienced practitioners provide legal advice (two days a week) at a local women's center. We provide one-day free counseling services once a year in Tokyo.

5 Internal exchange

In addition to lunch and dinner meetings, local social gatherings, and e-mailing lists, members cooperate with each other and have good relationships.

6 Exchange with other organizations

We are also engaged in exchanges with international organizations, government-related organizations, and private organizations including the following;

- ① International Women's Year Liaison Group
 - As part of the National Women's Committee of The United Nations NGOs, we send representatives to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly
 - Participation in the Liaison Conference of Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office
- ② LAWASIA and Japan Federation of the Bar Associations
- ③ Japan Women Tax Accountants Federation

7 Dispatch and introduction of instructors

We dispatch and introduce lecturers and legal counselors in response to requests from local governments and other organizations.

8 Public Relations Activities

The board of secretaries publishes annual newsletters, sends letters twice a year, reports activities annually using the website and mailing list, and calls for participation.



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<Recent Major Activities and Events>

◇ Achievements of members

2010 Ms. Yoshiko Okabe became a Supreme Court Justice

2013 Ms. Kaoru Onimaru became a Supreme Court Justice

2015 Ms. Yoko Hayashi became the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women of the United Nations

2017 Ms. Mikiko Otani became the Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

◇ Submission of Written Opinions, etc.

2016 and 2017

Written Opinions on the revision of the Civil Code (Inheritance Act) etc.

◇ Workshops

2016 "Amendment to the Penal Code Concerning Sexual Offenses"

2016/2017/2016 "Inheritance Law Amendment"

2018 Sequential lectures on Women's Bar Working Group (?) in the United Nations and International Organizations

2019 (1) Japan's Report of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,
(2) Practice of the Trust Act

◇ Exchange with foreign lawyers

2019 Symposiums with UK barristers

◇ Anniversary programs

60th Anniversary Symposium: Future of Diversifying Lifestyles and Laws

70th anniversary Symposium, to be held on Saturday, June 13th, 2020 (TBC)