



# 日本女性法律家協会

JAPAN WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

The Japan Women's Bar Association (the “Association”) is a nationwide organization founded in 1950 and comprised of women's lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and scholars. Currently, the association has about 800 members.

## **Purpose and Activities:**

As a group of women legal experts, we are working for developing a fair, harmonious, and vibrant society governed by laws, as well as improving 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 who was at the LS Department of Legal Affairs of GHQ at that time; more than 10 women, consists of 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 Japanese branch 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

Board of Secretaries: 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?

Female lawyer, judge, public prosecutor, professors of law or associate professors of law at universities may become a member upon the approval of the board of secretaries is necessary.

Female legal apprentice may become an associate member upon the approval of the board of secretariat.

Junior membership system is 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 Office of the Japan Women's Bar Association (Mailto: [ICD45507@nifty.com](mailto:ICD45507@nifty.com))

## Fee:

Admission 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 Lecture

In addition to special lectures held along with our annual general assembly, we organize several lectures a year, inviting specialists of various fields as speakers.. For the 2022 general assembly, the special lecture theme was “Artificial Intelligence and the Constitution”.

### 2 Research

We choose timely themes and organize workshops, lectures, and submit our opinions and requests to government entities for law reform. Lately, the studied theme are the Juvenile Law and Constitutional issues.

### 3 Supporting the younger generation

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

### 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 2021, a project team for the improvement of internal exchange has been implemented and organized working sessions and online events to improve the exchange and relationship between fellow members.

### 6 Exchange with other organizations

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

- 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 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

We report our activities and announcement of our events by our annual bulletins, online new letters (twice a year), website, and mailing list.



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## <Recent Major Activities and Events>

### ◇ Achievements of members

- 2010 Ms. Kiyoko 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.

- 2020-22 Request for the early introduction of the selective surname system for married couples, and proposed amendments to the system
- 2021 Written Opinion Opposing the Juvenile Law Revision Bill
  - Written request for the appointment of a female Supreme Court justice
  - Public comments (opinions) on the interim draft regarding the revision of the parent-child legal system
- 2022 Declaration on Constitutional Issues

### ◇ Lectures and Workshops

- 2020 Roundtable of External Officers (1st) / Lecture on Trust Law / Legal profession Joint Workshop
- 2021 In-Depth Seminar regarding the profession of in-house Lawyer /Launch of the Constitutional Issue Study Group/Joint Workshop with Women's Tax Federation/Members' Gathering (Cross-Industry Exchange/Children's representation in procedure/Work Style Reform for Doctors)
- 2022 Roundtable of External Officers (2nd)

### ◇ Exchange with foreign lawyers

2019 Symposiums with UK barristers/UN tour/ Observation of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women / Visit to the WTO and the International Criminal Court

### ◇ Anniversary programs

- 60th Anniversary Symposium (2010): Future of Diversifying Lifestyles and Laws
- 70th anniversary Symposium (2021), To the future of coexistence (in symbiosis)- Leave no One behind