

Court



Name: WATANABE Eriko

Position: Justice, Supreme Court

1983 Earned LL.B. at Tohoku University
1988-1995 Nagashima & Ohno (currently Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu)
1993-1994 University of Washington School of Law (LL.M.) concentrating on the comparative antitrust/competition law program
1994 Earned LL.M. at University of Washington, School of LAW
1994-1995 Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Chicago, USA
1995-1998 Japan Fair Trade Commission
1998 Nagashima & Ohno (currently Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu)
2000-2021 Partner, Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu
2004-2007 Professor (Antitrust and Corporate Law), Keio University Law School
2005-2007, 2009 Member of the Industrial Structure Council for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) appointed by the Minister of METI
2007-2012 Member of Supervisory Commission for Public-Private and Private-Private Competitive Tenderings appointed by the Prime Minister
2012-2015 Governor and Auditor, Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) Japan Public Broadcasting Corporation appointed by the Prime Minister with the consent of Houses of National Diet
2019-2021 Bar Examiner of the National Bar Examination Commission (Economic Law)
2020-2021 Auditor, Ochanomizu University appointed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
July 16, 2021-present Justice of the Japan Supreme Court



Name: HONDA Tomonari

Position: Chief Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Kanazawa University
1987 Appointed judge (Osaka District Court)
2008-2011 Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
2011-2016 Presiding Judge, Tokyo District Court
2016 – 2017 Presiding Judge, Yokohama District Court
2017 – 2019 Chief Judge, Kushiro District/Family Court
2019 Presiding Judge, Sapporo High Court
2019-2021 Chief Judge, Sapporo District Court
2021-2023 Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
2023 to Present Chief Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, judged cases at Naha District Court, Otsu District/Family Court, Obihiro Branch of Kushiro District/Family Court, Judicial Research Official, Supreme Court (Civil) etc.



Name: MASUDA Minoru

Position: Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo.
1987 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)
2012-2016 Presiding Judge, Tokyo District Court
2016-2018 Director-General, National Tax Tribunal
2018-2020 Chief Judge, Naha District Court
2020-2022 Presiding Judge, Fukuoka High Court
2022-2025 Presiding Judge, Tokyo High Court
2025 to Present Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, worked at Embassy of Japan in Canada, Administrative Affairs Bureau/Judicial Research Office of Supreme Court etc.

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Name: SHIMIZU Hibiku

Position: Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Tokyo University
1988 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)
1992-1997 Attorney, Civil Affairs Bureau Ministry of Justice, Treaty Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1997-2000 First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in the Netherlands
2001-2006 Counselor, Civil Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice
2009-2011 Chief of Branch Koriyama Branch, Fukushima District/Family Court
2012-2017 Presiding Judge, Tokyo District Court
2019-2020 Chief Judge, Wakayama District/Family Court
2020-2023 Presiding Judge, Osaka High Court
2023 to Present Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, judged cases at Asahikawa District/Family Court, Kawasaki Branch of Yokohama District/Family Court, Tokyo High Court.



Name: NAKADAIRA Ken

Position: Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo
1991 Appointed judge (Yokohama District Court)
1996-1999 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)
2001-2005 Judge, Osaka District Court (Intellectual Property Division)
2008-2011 Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
2011-2014 Presiding Judge, Oita District Court
2014-2017 Judge, Tokyo High Court
2017-2020 Presiding Judge, Yokohama District Court
2020-2023 Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
2023-2024 Chief Judge, Yamagata District/Family Court
2024 to Present Presiding Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, worked at Kagoshima District Court, Matsumoto Branch of Nagano District Court.



Name: KIKUCHI Eri

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Tokyo University
1993 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)
2009-2012 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)
2012-2016 Judicial Research Official, Supreme Court (Civil/Intellectual Property)
2016-2021 Judge, Tokyo High Court
2021-2024 Presiding Judge, Shizuoka District Court (Civil Division)
2024 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, judged cases at Yokohama District Court, Himeji Branch of Kobe District/Family Court, Dispatched to the Federal Republic of Germany to research the German Judicial System (1995-1996, 2001)

Court



Name: IMAI Hiroaki

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Psychology Department, University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law, Kyoto University

1996 Appointed judge (Yokohama District Court)

2001-2004 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)

2007-2010 Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

2013-2016 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)

2016-2019 Presiding Judge, Niigata District Court

2020-2023 Presiding Judge, Tokyo Family Court

2023 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, judged cases at Naha District/Family Court, Sapporo Family/District Court.

Visiting Scholar, The French National School for the Judiciary, Max Planck Institute.



Name: IWAI Naoyuki

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Tokyo University

1997 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)

2006-2008 Judge, Gifu District Court

2015-2016 Judge, Tokyo High Court

2020-2022 Presiding Judge, Nagoya District Court

2023 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, worked at Civil Affairs Bureau of Supreme Court.



Name: MIZUNO Masanori

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Tokyo University

1998 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)

2002-2004 Official, Second North America Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2004-2006 Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

2020-2023 Judge, Fukuoka High Court

2023 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, worked at Administrative Affairs Bureau of Supreme Court, and judged cases at Kanazawa District/Family Court, Takeo Branch of Saga District/Family Court, Yokohama District Court.

Visiting Scholar, Southern Methodist University, School of Law. LL.M.



Name: ITOU Kiyotaka

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Hokkaido University
1998 Appointed judge (Tokyo District Court)
2010-2013 Judge, Naha District Court
2017-2019 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)
2024-202 Judge, Tokyo High Court
2025 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, worked at Ministry of Justice.



Name: RAI Shin-ichi

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Tokyo University
1999 Appointed judge (Osaka District Court)
2004-2007 Judge, Tokyo District Court (Intellectual Property Division)
2021-2023 Judge, Tokyo High Court
2023 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, judged cases at Toyohashi Branch of Nagoya District/Family Court, Naha District/Family Court (Head Office and Okinawa Branch), Saku Branch of Nagano District/Family Court, Yokohama Family Court.



Name: AMANO Kenji

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Arts in Literature, Waseda University
2001-2002 Nomura Securities, Co.Ltd.
2006 Appointed judge (Chiba District Court)
2015-2018 Judge, Tokyo District Court (IP Division)
2023 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court
In addition to the above, judged cases at Kurashiki Branch of Okayama District/Family Court, Hachinohe Branch of Aomori District/Family Court, Matsudo Branch of Chiba District/Family Court.
Columbia Law School (LL.M., 2010)

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Name: YASUOKA Mikako

Position: Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Faculty of Law, Keio University

2006 Appointed judge (Yokohama District Court)

2018-2020 Judge, Tokyo District Court (IP Division)

2025 to Present Judge, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, Judged cases at Nigata Family court, Saku Branch of Nagano District Court, worked at Tokyo District Legal Affairs Bureau (Litigation Department), The Legal Training and Research Institute of Japan.



Name: NAKANO Yuji

Position: Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate, Dept. of Electrical Engineering of Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University

1994 Joined Japan Patent Office (JPO), Assistant Examiner

1998 Examiner, Patent Examination Dept., JPO

2007-2009 JETRO Düsseldorf (Intellectual Property)

2009-2011 Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Dept., JPO

2013-2015 Director, Human Resources Development Dept., National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT)

2016-2018 Deputy Director, International Standard Div., Industrial Science, Technology and Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

2019-2021 Director, Patent Examination Dept., JPO

2021-2022 Senior Director, Patent Examination Dept., JPO

2022-2023 Chief Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Dept., JPO

2023 to Present Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, Examination Standards Office, Legislative Affairs Office, International Affairs Div. of the JPO, Visiting Scholar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Computer Science).



Name: MORII Takanobu

Position: Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court

Graduate of Master's Program, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Keio University

1994 Joined Japan Patent Office (JPO), Assistant Examiner

1998 Examiner, Patent Examination Dept., JPO

200-2011 Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Dept., JPO

2019-2020 Director, Patent Examination Dept., JPO

2020-2023 Chief Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Dept., JPO

2023 to Present Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court

In addition to the above, Visiting Scholar, University of California Davis (Biological Chemistry and Medicine).

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Name: TAKENAKA Kenshi

Position: Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court

1995-2000 Patent engineer/Mechanical engineer, working for a gas appliance manufacturer

2000-2022 Patent engineer/Patent and trademark attorney/Partner, working for an IP firm

2003 Registered as a patent and trademark attorney

2005 Qualified as an IP infringement litigator

2022 to Present Judicial Research Official, Intellectual Property High Court