



## **Akihiro Hironaka**

**Partner**  
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Akihiro Hironaka has been a partner in the dispute resolution group of the firm since 2007. He has extensive experience dealing with various large-scale and complex dispute resolution related to both cross-border and domestic matters.

Mr. Hironaka is particularly renowned for his successful representation of clients in multiple large-scale disputes. For example, he succeeded in defending a notable Japanese corporation in six large extraordinary parallel lawsuits amounting to JPY 48.3 billion in total damages, filed by claimants, including an affiliate company of a U.S. headquartered investment bank and a notable U.S. hedge fund. He also represented Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance in contesting a tax assessment with respect to complex cross-border reinsurance transactions to transfer earthquake-related risks, and succeeded in recovering JPY 6.7 billion. Furthermore, by representing the Sumitomo Trust & Banking Corporation in challenging a tax assessment related to cross-border securities repurchase transactions, he succeeded in recovering JPY 8 billion.

Mr. Hironaka has also represented and advised major Japanese and international corporations, and achieved results in large scale international arbitrations in Japan and elsewhere, including an emergency arbitrator procedure case, under the rules of ICC, SIAC, AAA-ICDR and JCAA, complex product liability lawsuits, mass tort claims, cross-border disputes concerning M&A transactions and termination of distribution agreements, reinsurance claims, and multiple large construction disputes relating to delays at foreign construction sites located in Middle Eastern, Asian and African countries, among others.

In addition, his experience extends to advising Japanese and international corporations with respect to U.S. discovery proceedings, Japanese judicial assistance for foreign court proceedings, Japanese legal issues pertaining to foreign court and arbitration proceedings, and U.S. civil actions, including class actions.

Mr. Hironaka is a graduate of the University of Tokyo (LL.B., 1993) and Harvard Law School (LL.M.,

2003), and he is admitted to the bars of Japan and New York. He served as a Japanese district court judge from 1998 until 2000. Furthermore, he has authored numerous books, book chapters, and articles in the areas of litigation, arbitration, cross-border dispute resolution, product liability and tax controversy, and his representative publications include Yasuhei Taniguchi et al. (eds.), *Civil Procedure in Japan* (contributor, Juris Publishing), *International Arbitration and Corporate Strategy* (Co-author, Yuhikaku), and *Frontlines of International Tax Litigation* (Co-author, Yuhikaku). He is an individually ranked lawyer in the category of Dispute Resolution with Chambers Global / Asia-Pacific and in the categories of Litigation / Arbitration / Product Liability Defence / Life Sciences (Product Liability) with Who's Who Legal. Who's Who Legal 2015 described him as an "experienced litigator who 'is one of the first names that come to mind for high-stake lawsuits'", and Who's Who legal 2016 described him as an "internationally renowned and universally respected lawyer." Who's Who Legal 2020 described that "Peers say he is 'extremely strategic and an expert at leading a large team', adding: 'There is no one else on his level.'" Asian Legal Business named him as "one of the firm's many 'go-to' partners to perform strongly." Mr. Hironaka was awarded Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards: Disputes Star of the Year, Japan, in 2015 and 2016. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

#### **Qualifications**

- Admitted in Japan (1996, voluntarily deregistered in 1998 and readmitted in 2000)
- Admitted in New York (2004)

#### **Education**

- Diploma in International Arbitration, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2019)
- Harvard Law School (LL.M.) (2003)
- The University of Tokyo (LL.B.) (1993)

#### **Other Professional Experience**

- Foreign Attorney, Arnold & Porter LLP, Washington, D.C. (2003-2004)
- Judge of Yokohama District Court (1998-2000)

#### **Representative Publications**

- *GAR Know how - Litigation 2019 (Japan Chapter)* (2019)
- *The Product Regulation and Liability Review (6th ed., Japan Chapter)* (2019)
- YASUHEI TANIGUCHI, ET. AL. EDS., *CIVIL PROCEDURE IN JAPAN* (Contributor, 3rd ed., Juris Publishing, 2018)
- *Treatise on Japanese Taxation, Third Edition* (in Japanese) (Co-author, Yuhikaku, 2018)
- KOICHIRO FUJIKURA & TAKEO KOSUGI, EDS., *THE DECISION MAKING OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT 2005-2013 (IN JAPANESE)* (CONTRIBUTOR, HATORI PRESS, INC., 2017)
- *Exploring Practicality: Using Japanese Courtrooms for Evidence Gathering in International Arbitration*, 9 Dispute Resolution Int'l Vol. 9, No. 2 (2015)

- *Commercial Litigation (2nd ed., Japan Chapter)* (2015)
- INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY (in Japanese) (Co-author, Yuhikaku, 2014)
- FRONTLINES OF INTERNATIONAL TAX LITIGATION (in Japanese) (Co-author, Yuhikaku, 2010)
- *Securities litigation picks up*, Co-author, International Financial Law Review, The 2010 Guide to Dispute Resolution (2010)
- *Recent Developments in Evidence Law regarding Tax Disputes*, in HIROSHI KANEKO, ED., DEVELOPMENT OF TAX LAW IN JAPAN (in Japanese) (Yuhikaku, 2010)
- KOICHIRO FUJIKURA & TAKEO KOSUGI, EDS., THE DECISION MAKING OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT 1993-2005 (IN JAPANESE) (CONTRIBUTOR, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO PRESS, 2007)
- *Recent Trends in International Arbitration in Japan*, Co-author, The Asia-Pacific Arbitration Review (2007)
- *Jurisdictional Theory "Made in Japan": Convergence of U.S. and Continental European Approaches*, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, Vol. 37, 1317 (2004)

### **Recognitions**

- Chambers Global/Asia-Pacific 2020 recognized as a leading individual in the dispute resolution category
- Who's Who Legal Japan 2019 recognized as a National Leader in the Litigation / Arbitration / Product Liability Defence categories
- Who's Who Legal recognized as a Global Leader in the Arbitration 2020 / Product Liability Defence 2019 / Life Sciences (Product Liability) 2020 categories
- Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards: Disputes Star of the Year, Japan (2015, 2016)
- Tax Controversy Leaders, International Tax Review (2011-2019)
- ILO Client Choice Awards, International Law Office (2015)

### **Membership**

- Councilor, Japanese American Society for Legal Studies
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2019-)
- Member, Japan Association of the Law of Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (2016-)
- Member, Japan Association of Arbitrators (2006-)
- Member, Japan Association of the Law of Civil Procedure (2001-)

### **Languages**

- Japanese, English