

Masahisa Mitsunaga

Los Angeles, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Japan Practice; 日本プラクティス; Corporate Law; Intellectual Property Law



Masahisa (Masa) Mitsunaga is a Shareholder in the Los Angeles office of Buchalter. He is Chair of the Japan Practice group and a member of the Firm's Corporate and Intellectual Property groups.

His clients see Mr. Mitsunaga as a solution provider, and he has represented numerous Japanese clients in connection with their challenging legal matters including large business and strategic transactions and business disputes in the United States for over a decade. In the early stage of his professional career, Mr. Mitsunaga developed particular experience in the entertainment industry by participating in media-related merger and acquisition and debt and equity finance transactions as well as handling litigation matters for clients within the industry. Since he joined Buchalter, Mr. Mitsunaga has regularly represented a wide range of Japanese clients through their start-ups, capital transactions, and mergers and acquisitions in the United States.

Mr. Mitsunaga's clients include media and broadcasting companies, film production and distribution companies, talent management companies, interactive game developers, private equity funds, advertising companies, logistics companies, toy and game manufacturers, food manufacturers, medical device manufacturers, real estate companies, online service providers, and other companies operating globally.

Representative Matters

- Represented a major Japanese medical device manufacturer in connection with its strategic transaction to expand its presence in the United States.
- Represented a major Japanese trading company in connection with its investment into a Hollywood incubator.*
- Represented Colony Capital in the \$660 million purchase of Miramax Films from Disney.*
- Represented a major Japanese private equity fund in connection with a business dispute that arose from its investment in the United States and successfully resolved the dispute.
- Represented Japanese producers, rights holders, and financiers in connection with their motion picture deals in Hollywood.
- Represented numerous Japanese clients in connection with license deals, merchandise deals, joint venture deals, and other U.S. operations.
- Represented a major Japanese broadcasting company in a copyright infringement action against a major U.S. network, including handling e-discovery and other pretrial matters.*

**Represents experience from a previous law firm*

Publications

- I.P. Strategies for the Content Business -- from U.S. litigation perspectives, *Hot Press IntegreX Inc.*, November 2, 2012

- Hollywood Accounting & Vertical Integration -- Lesson from case law, *UniJapan*, June 6, 2011
- Lessons by Japanese and U.S. Lawyers re E-Discovery, *Business-Houmu*, January 10, 2011
- Points that Japanese licensors should be aware, *Business Law Journal*, November 8, 2010

Presentations

- Speaker, "Critical Points in Negotiating Content-Related Deals," JETRO Japan, March 5, 2019
- Panelist, "The Challenges In Enforcing Japanese Copyrighted Works in the United States," UC Hastings Symposium, September 20, 2018
- Speaker, "Negotiation with Hollywood Players for Content Business," JETRO Japan, May 2, 2017
- Speaker, "Points to Be Aware of In Expanding Japanese Content Businesses," JETRO/UniJapan, July 8, 2014
- Speaker, "Points to Be Aware of in Dealing with Disputes in the U.S.," Japan Business Association of Southern California, December 4, 2012
- Co-Speaker, "How to resolve business disputes and lawsuits in the U.S. promptly and efficiently," JETRO Los Angeles, June 1, 2011
- Co-Speaker, "The Latest on Risks and Preparation of the U.S. Litigation That Directors and Auditors Should be Aware Of," Japan Independent Directors Network, May 3, 2011

Education

Mr. Mitsunaga earned his LL.M. at USC Gould School of Law and his LL.B. from Keio University in Tokyo, Japan.

Bar Admissions

- California
- New York

Languages

- Japanese