

AUSTRALIA JAPAN PRACTICE

AUSTRALIA

Senior Advisor



Ian
Williams

Partners



Damien
Roberts



Melissa
Swain-Tonkin



Elizabeth
Charlesworth



Nicole
Pedler



Timothy
Stutt



Aaron
White



James
Allsop



Cassandra
Wee

Senior Associates



Kate
Bower



Jennifer
Wu



Jean
Hamilton-Smith



Peter
Keeves

Solicitors



George
Farrugia



Sara
Komatsu

JAPAN

Partners



Andrew
Blacoe



Lachlan
Clancy

Senior Associates



Saori
Nakayama



Ryu Long
(on secondment
to HSF Singapore)

Associates



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OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM



Ian Williams Senior Adviser 
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Ian is a highly experienced M&A and joint venture specialist focusing on the mining, industrials and infrastructure sectors.

He is ranked in Chambers Global 2019 as a leading Corporate / M&A lawyer in Japan, as well as a leading Energy & Resources lawyer in Australia. Ian has been a Vice-President of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee since 2006, and was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation (外務大臣表彰) by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 2016.

Ian worked at Kobe Steel for 5 years and played for the Kobe Steelers rugby team winning the Japan championship four times. He also represented the Australian Wallabies and Japan rugby teams. Ian holds 日本語能力試験二級 (JLPT N2) certification.

Ian's full profile can be read [here](#).



Elizabeth Charlesworth Partner 
FREP Finance, Sydney

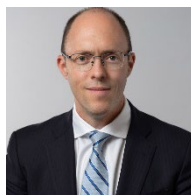
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Elizabeth specialises in advising on acquisitions and divestments as well as greenfield development of infrastructure and energy assets. She has acted for both financiers and sponsors on a range of transactions across the sector covering the UK, Europe, Africa and Australia.

Elizabeth's financing experience includes limited recourse project financing, acquisition financing, borrowing base lending as well as corporate financing.

Elizabeth attended Tenri University in Nara, studying a foreign language course, and represented the university in the Women's J-League for ice hockey. She was also a recipient of a Mitsui Educational Foundation scholarship in 2006.

Elizabeth's full profile can be read [here](#).



Damien Roberts Partner 
Corporate, Sydney

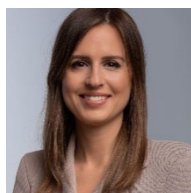
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Damien leads our Japanese client team. He is a corporate / M&A lawyer with particular expertise in infrastructure / logistics, energy and consumer, and whilst in Tokyo was ranked as a Japan-based expert for Australia Corporate / M&A by Chambers Global 2020.

He has extensive experience working in both Australia and Japan advising Japanese corporations, trading houses and public bodies on their outbound business acquisitions and international joint ventures.

Damien was based in Japan for 10 years until 2021. He is a qualified simultaneous interpreter and has held 日本語能力試験一級 (JLPT N1) certification since 1995.

Damien's full profile can be read [here](#).



Nicole Pedler Partner 
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Nicole practises in the areas of companies and securities law. She has extensive experience in public and private acquisitions and disposals, restructures and equity capital raisings.

Nicole has worked with Japanese trading houses and corporations throughout her career and currently advises a number of Japanese clients on their investments in Australia.

Nicole studied Japanese at university, undertaking a student exchange at a university in Tokyo and has basic written and spoken Japanese skills.

Nicole's full profile can be read [here](#).



Melissa Swain-Tonkin Partner
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Melissa has extensive experience in public and private acquisitions and restructures and specialises in advising offshore financial investors on their Australian investments. Melissa has a particular focus on advising Japanese investors on farm-ins, joint ventures and other equity investments in the energy and resources and infrastructure sectors.

Melissa has worked with a number of Japanese corporations during her career and she currently advises Japanese trading houses, power utilities and mining companies on their investments in Australia and associated off take arrangements.

Melissa previously held the role of General Counsel and Company Secretary of an ASX-listed coal mining company and so has a strong understanding of the Australian mining industry and the importance of delivering legal advice that has full regard to the commercial context.

Melissa's full profile can be read [here](#).



Timothy Stutt Partner
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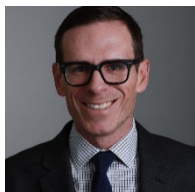
Timothy practises corporations law and specialises in corporate governance. He has extensive experience advising large companies in relation to environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters, particularly with respect to disclosure and risk management, and has co-authored several publications in relation to shareholder rights and activism (including in Chambers and The Law Reviews).

Timothy also has previous experience in the financial industry, having worked as an analyst for a Japan-focused investment manager based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Timothy was one of two Australians to receive a Young Leaders' Program scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education to study for his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo. He also holds Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Commerce degrees from Monash University, Melbourne. Timothy's full profile can read [here](#).

 Indicates Japanese language proficiency
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OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM



Aaron White Partner
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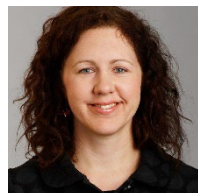
Aaron is a transactional lawyer who has more than 17 years' experience advising in the international technology and telecommunications industries.

He has extensive experience advising Japanese corporations and trading houses on their trading and investment activities across a wide range of industries, in particular helping them to partner with, invest in, and acquire the most innovative companies in technology, mobility, clean energy and climate.

Aaron recently relocated from our London office to Australia and is qualified in the United Kingdom and Australia. He is a ranked lawyer in Chambers 2022 for Telecommunications: UK, as a Next Generation Partner in Legal 500 2022 for Telecommunications: UK.

Aaron has studied and lived in Japan.

Aaron's full profile can be read [here](#).



Kate Bower Senior Associate 
Disputes, Perth

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Kate specialises in construction disputes and has over 10 years' experience working on construction related matters in the LNG, mining, oil, energy and resources sectors.

Kate has undertaken secondments with international mining and major oil and gas companies. She has acted for Japanese contractors on mining projects and conducted negotiations for Japanese trading houses on resources projects.

Kate holds 日本語能力試験一級 (JLPT N1) certification.

Kate's full profile can be read [here](#).



James Allsop Partner
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James co-leads the firm's Asia Arbitration Hub. James' practice centres on advising Japanese and Asia Pacific clients in complex commercial disputes, primarily through international arbitration. He has particular expertise in cross-border contractual disputes, as well as M&A, joint venture and shareholder disputes.

James also works with clients on multi-jurisdictional fraud and corruption investigations, advising on anti-bribery and corruption matters, corporate governance and crisis management.

James advises clients across various industries, with particular experience in the manufacturing, energy, technology, pharmaceutical and consumer products sectors.

James was based in Tokyo until 2022 and relocated to Melbourne to support Japanese clients in Australia and the broader APAC region. James' full profile can be read [here](#).



Jennifer Wu Senior Associate
Corporate, Sydney

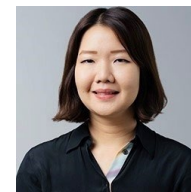
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Jennifer is a senior associate predominantly focused on the energy, resources and infrastructure sectors. Jennifer has also spent time in the Tokyo office from 2019, returning to the Sydney office in 2021.

Jennifer has advised several Japanese trading houses and major companies on overseas energy joint ventures and infrastructure investments. Her experience also includes advising on M&A transactions, project development, and operational and regulatory matters.

Jennifer's full profile can be read [here](#).



Cassandra Wee Partner
PEI, Sydney

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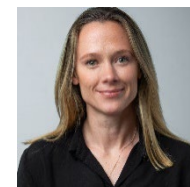
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Cassandra leads an integrated energy practice from her base in Sydney with proven expertise in the electricity, gas and carbon sectors. She advises across the range of energy project development, transactions, structuring, offtake and regulatory matters.

Her expertise includes renewable projects, energy storage, power purchase agreements, hydrogen, e-mobility and EVs, natural gas transport, supply and storage, LNG sale and purchase and carbon-related matters (including CCS) across various structures including joint ventures, farm-ins and acquisitions & divestments.

Cass was previously based in Tokyo and has acted for a variety of Japanese corporates across Australia and the APAC region.

Cassandra's profile can be read [here](#).



Jean Hamilton-Smith
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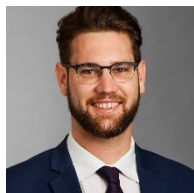
Jean is a senior associate specialising in international contentious construction law.

Jean spent two years based in our Tokyo office between 2016-2018, and has since spent several years based in Dubai and Sydney. She has advised most of the Japanese trading houses across a range of cross-border construction and infrastructure disputes.

Jean was also seconded to the metals and energy legal team of a trading house's head office in Otemachi, Tokyo in 2016.

Jean's full profile can be read [here](#).

OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM



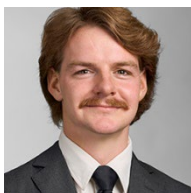
Peter Keeves Senior Associate
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Peter is a senior associate in our Perth dispute resolution team. He has previously worked for 6 months in our Tokyo Dispute Resolution and Corporate Crime and Investigation team, and continues to work with our Tokyo, Hong Kong and Indonesian offices on corporate crime and investigation matters.

Peter has experience in international arbitrations and cross border disputes, as well as disputes in a range of Australian courts, in respect of commercial disputes and insolvency matters.

Peter's full profile can be read [here](#).



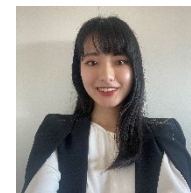
George Farrugia Associate
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George is a solicitor in the Employment, Industrial Relations and Safety team in Perth and has previously worked in our Tokyo office.

George has experience advising clients across both the private and government sectors on a range of employment and industrial relations matters. His work includes supporting clients in complex litigation and regulatory proceedings, providing strategic guidance on workforce management issues and navigating disputes before the Federal Court of Australia and the Fair Work Commission.

Further, George has experience in advising Japanese and international clients, including Japanese trading houses, government agencies and publicly listed corporations on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters.



Sara Komatsu Solicitor 
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Sara is a solicitor in our Sydney leveraged finance team. She also has experience in M&A, equity capital markets, restructuring and insolvency as well as commercial litigation, including previously at an intellectual property firm.

Along with her law degree, Sara holds a Bachelor of Science (Advanced) from the University of Sydney and has previously studied at Kyoto University.

Sara is a native English and Japanese speaker.

OUR JAPAN TEAM



Andrew Blacoe Partner
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Andrew leads the firm's market-leading Corporate practice in Asia and is the Managing Partner of the Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Tokyo office. He is also the head of the Projects & Energy team in Japan. He has extensive experience and expertise advising clients on complex international and cross-border transactions in the metals and minerals, power and petroleum sectors.

He has lived in both Tokyo and Sydney for over 10 years and has specific expertise advising Japanese corporations on their M&A, project development and finance transactions in the energy and resources sector.

Andrew was seconded to a major Japanese trading house in Tokyo for 2 years.

Andrew's full profile can be read [here](#).



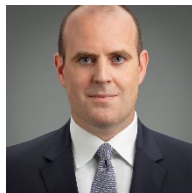
Ryu Long Senior Associate 
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Ryu is a senior associate in the corporate / M&A team in our Tokyo office and is currently on secondment to our Singapore office. Ryu has experience in advising Japanese and international clients, including Japanese trading houses, on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters.

Ryu is dual-qualified to practice in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia and as a solicitor in England and Wales. He is a native English speaker and speaks Japanese fluently.

Ryu's full profile can be read [here](#).



Lachlan Clancy Partner
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Lachlan is an energy sector specialist, with a focus on project development and M&A. His practice spans the entire energy sector, including oil & gas (upstream, CCS, refining and petrochemicals and LNG), power (conventional, nuclear and renewable power), and sustainable fuels, including hydrogen and ammonia and other new energies.

Lachlan has been recognised as a Next Generation Partner in Legal 500 - Projects and Energy in Japan (Gaiben), and previously in Singapore.

Lachlan is licensed to advise in Japan as a Gaikokuho Jimu Bengoshi, and is admitted as a solicitor in England & Wales and of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia.

Lachlan's full profile can be read [here](#).



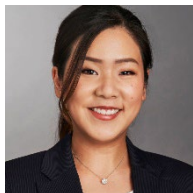
Saori Nakayama Senior Associate 
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Saori is a senior associate experienced in real asset transactions including acquisitions and disposals of substantial real assets, major commercial leasing and large-scale developments. Saori has also provided real assets support and due diligence advice on various corporate M&A and renewable energy matters including in relation to mining projects and BESS project sites. Saori is currently undertaking a secondment in Tokyo where she works on various matters such as energy transition, space and other corporate related matters.

Saori's full profile can be read [here](#).

OUR JAPAN TEAM



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Sakura is an associate in the Corporate, Energy & Resources team in Tokyo. She has experience advising clients and projects in the energy and resources sectors, including acquisitions and divestments, joint ventures, commodity marketing, and business structuring. Sakura was seconded to a major Japanese power generation company in 2020, and she is currently on a separate secondment at a major Japanese trading house.

Sakura is qualified in the Supreme Court of Western Australia. She worked in our Perth office for 4 years before recently relocating to our Tokyo office.

Sakura is a native English and Japanese speaker.

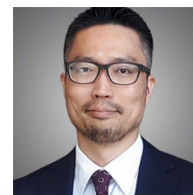
Sakura's full profile can be read [here](#).



Julia Hong Associate
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Julia is an associate in the Corporate, Energy, Infrastructure & Mining team in Tokyo. She has experience in advising both government agencies and private companies, with a focus on a project development in the energy and infrastructure sectors. She has experience assisting on matters across the project life cycle, including procurement, delivery and related disputes.

Julia is admitted to practice in New South Wales, Australia.



Tatsuaki Tomiyama Associate 
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Tommy is a solicitor in our Tokyo Corporate/M&A team who advises on cross-border investments into Australia and the broader APAC region, mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. Tatsuaki has assisted a broad range of Japanese, Australian and international clients in the energy, resources, defence, infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, insurance, and machinery sectors.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Tommy worked internationally in the U.S., Japan, the Middle East and Africa for several years, including at a United Nations agency in conflict areas.

Tommy is a native Japanese speaker and speaks fluent English and basic Spanish.