

Kazuhiro Shimizu

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Kazu Shimizu is an experienced business lawyer who practices corporate, commercial, and intellectual property law. He leads Alston & Bird's Japan Business Team and is fluent in Japanese.

Kazu represents and advises Japanese corporations in their investments and operations in the U.S. as well as major U.S. corporations doing business in Japan. He has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, greenfield investments, business process outsourcing, distributorship and sales representative arrangements, various service contracts, and technology and intellectual property transactions. Working with his partners, Kazu also advises clients on compliance, commercial litigation, products liability, tax, economic incentives, employment, immigration, real estate, construction, land use, and myriad other matters. Kazu serves as outside general counsel for several Japanese-owned companies operating in the U.S.

Representative Experience

Mergers and Acquisitions

- Advised a Japanese medical equipment manufacturer in its acquisition of a California-based contractor of design and development of medical devices and in its acquisition of a California-based company that possesses unique electrical wiring technology.
- Advised a Japanese confectionary company in its disposition of a franchise in Japan through a transaction with the U.S.-based franchisor.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of automotive components and medical devices in the acquisition of a Silicon Valley-based medical device startup company.
- Advised a Japanese electronic components manufacturer in a minority investment and a joint development contract with a telecommunications components startup company based in Silicon Valley.
- Advised a Japanese industrial gas, chemical, medical, energy, and agriculture and food products company in the acquisition of a manufacturer of carbon-dioxide-related equipment based in Georgia.
- Advised a Japanese paint and coating manufacturer in the acquisition of an architectural paint and coating manufacturer based in Los Angeles.
- Advised a Japanese paint and coating manufacturer in a minority investment in an architectural paint and coating manufacturer based in Oregon.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of analog and power semiconductors in the acquisition of a digital power integrated circuits manufacturer based in Cork, Ireland.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of high-performance plastics in the sale of its overlaminated and acrylic tape manufacturing subsidiary based in Tennessee.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of fasteners in the acquisition of a fastener company based in Georgia.

- Advised a Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer in the sale of its disc manufacturing subsidiary based in Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Advised a Japanese automobile parts manufacturer in the purchase of foundry assets in Warrenton, GA.
- Advised a major Japanese electronics components manufacturer in its strategic acquisition of a Nasdaq-listed manufacturer of wireless solutions based in Dallas.
- Advised a Japanese trading company specializing in industrial equipment in its strategic acquisition of a manufacturer of complex automated machining systems based in Minneapolis.
- Advised a Japanese bank in its acquisition of the chemical materials and components business of a large Japanese electronics company.
- Advised a Japanese diesel engine manufacturer in its strategic acquisition of a marine engine distributor based in St. Petersburg, FL.
- Advised a Japanese telecommunications company in its purchase of a majority stake in a multinational business communication systems and IT solutions provider based in the Philippines.
- Advised a Japanese lighting equipment manufacturer in its strategic acquisition of a lighting fixture manufacturer based in Rhode Island.
- Advised a Japanese business communications systems manufacturer in the divestiture of its subsidiary in Dallas.
- Advised a Japanese equipment manufacturer in its proposed acquisition of an equipment manufacturer based in Pennsylvania.
- Advised a major Japanese trading company in its strategic investment in an architectural products manufacturer based in Columbia, SC.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of socks and hosiery in its purchase of a majority stake in a sock manufacturer based in New York.
- Advised a Japanese online game content provider in its investment in a mobile commerce venture company based in California.
- Advised a major Japanese trading company in its purchase of a brand and other intellectual property rights related to performance textiles from a UK-based firm.

Foreign Direct Investment Projects

- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of hydraulic excavators in its establishment of a manufacturing facility in Spartanburg, SC.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of dairy products, functional products, animal feed probiotics, and beverages in its establishment of a manufacturing facility for animal feed additives in Peachtree City, GA.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of printed products, packaging, and electronics materials in its establishment of a manufacturing facility for food packaging materials in Griffin, GA.
- Advised several Japanese automobile components manufacturers in their establishment of manufacturing facilities throughout Georgia.
- Advised numerous Japanese companies in their establishment of sales and distribution subsidiaries throughout the Southeast.

- Advised a Japanese industrial boiler manufacturer in its establishment of a manufacturing facility in Rockmart, GA.
- Advised a Japanese manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment in its establishment of a manufacturing facility in Jefferson, GA.
- Advised a Japanese architectural siding manufacturer in its establishment of a major manufacturing facility in Macon, GA.

Other Commercial Transactions

- Advised a Japanese heavy equipment manufacturer in a joint venture for the manufacture of construction machinery.
- Advised a Japanese bearing retainer manufacturer in negotiating long-term supply agreements with several of its key customers in Sweden, France, Germany, and the U.S.

Other Matters

- Coordinated the internal investigation of a U.S. subsidiary of a Japanese consumer electronics company over irregularities uncovered during an accounting audit.
- Advised a major Japanese electronics components manufacturer on various warranty and products liability issues.

Professional & Community Engagement

- Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, board
- Japan-America Society of Georgia, board
- Japan Business Association of Southern California

Education

- New York University (J.D., 1996)
- University of Southern California (B.S., 1992)

Languages

- Japanese

Admitted to Practice

- New York
- Georgia

Related Services

Japan Business Team | M&A, Corporate & Finance - Japanese Business Team | Economic Incentives - Japanese Business Team | Intellectual Property - Japanese Business Team | Intellectual Property | Corporate & Finance | Corporate & Business Transactions | Mergers & Acquisitions | Government & Economic Incentives | International