



Hogan Lovells wins in three categories at the ALB Japan Law Awards 2020

October 2020

After being shortlisted in 10 categories in the 16th Annual Asian Legal Business (ALB) Japan Law Awards 2020, we are delighted to announce our receipt of three awards: Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year, Project Finance Deal of the Year, and Foreign Lawyer of the Year (Dr. Frederick Ch'en).

We are honored to have been selected and we greatly appreciate the recognition of our work. As we celebrate our 30th year in Japan, we continue to put our clients at the center of everything we do and we look forward to partnering with you on your future projects. Please see below for additional details regarding the awards and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Winners

- Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year.
- Project Finance Deal of the Year Van Phong 1 Thermal Power Plant Project in Vietnam.
- Foreign Lawyer of the Year Dr. Frederick Ch'en.

Read more here.

Finalists

- Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year.
- Healthcare and Life Sciences Law Firm of the Year.
- Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year.
- Japan Law Firm of the Year.
- Technology, Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year Applied Materials' Share. Purchase of Kokusai Electric Corp..
- Woman Lawyer of the Year Jacky Scanlan-Dyas.
- Young Lawyer of the Year Tomoe Takahashi.

Read more here.

Intellectual Property Firm of the Year

We are pleased to be recognized as Intellectual Property (IP) Law Firm of the Year for the third time, having previously received the award in 2017 and 2018. Led by Lloyd Parker, Dr. Frederick Ch'en, Hiroto Imai, and Tomoe Takahashi, we have one of the largest intellectual property teams of any firm in Japan and are the only IP practice in Japan with qualifications covering Japan, the United States, Europe, and other Asia-Pacific jurisdictions. Our team of over 50 IP professionals, all of whom speak English and Japanese, advises on both domestic and international IP matters, contentious and noncontentious, including trademarks, patents, designs, copyright, trade secrets, and unfair competition. We are also recognized as having one of the leading dispute resolution practices of international law firms in Japan and our Tokyo IP team includes experienced lawyers that handle a wide variety of Japanese and multi-jurisdictional IP disputes. In particular, we have significant experience in complex pharmaceutical patent litigation in various jurisdictions, including ongoing multi-jurisdictional patent litigation that requires an integrated and coordinated approach with the broader Hogan Lovells IP team in over 45 offices across the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. If you would like to speak with a member of our IP team, please feel free to contact us and we would be pleased to discuss how best to support and collaborate with you to address your IP needs.

Project Finance Deal of the Year - Van Phong 1

Our recognition for our work in connection with this deal is particularly gratifying given our clients' key role in this important project to address and meet ongoing power shortages in Vietnam. After being initially proposed by sponsor Sumitomo Corp. in 2006, the Vietnamese government approved the Van Phong 1 hermal power plant project for build-operate-transfer (BOT) status in 2009. A cross-office, cross-practice team led out of Tokyo acted as lenders' international legal counsel in connection with the US\$2.6 billion financing of the Van Phong 1 (2 x 660 MW) thermal power plant, and the electricity generated from the project will be sold to Vietnam Electricity, the country's state-owned power utility, for a term of 25 years. This project is the first of its type to reach this stage of its financing under the new Vietnam regime for foreign currency conversion and remittance, where a 70:30 foreign currency regime has been applied. Once completed, this greenfield project will be one of the largest independent power producers projects in Vietnam. Tokyo partners Joseph Kim and Sean Conaty, and the rest of the Tokyo team, are delighted to be recognized for their work on this project and we look forward to continuing to support our clients in connection with their future business plans.

Foreign Lawyer of the Year – Dr. Frederick Ch'en

As an intellectual property lawyer and a pioneer life sciences lawyer in Japan, Dr. Frederick (Fred) Ch'en's receipt of this award is recognition of his significant work representing clients on a broad range of contentious and noncontentious IP matters, especially in the life sciences area. With a background in both life sciences and the law, Fred regularly draws upon his scientific training and legal expertise to provide technical insights into clients' disputes and transactions, while also bringing cross-border perspectives that stem from having been raised in four different cultures. Fred is a solicitor (England and Wales), U.S. attorney (California), U.S. patent attorney, a registered foreign attorney in Japan, and a UK chartered biologist. Within the firm, he holds multiple leadership roles, including serving as a member of the firm's Legal Ethics Committee (responsible for reviewing and approving all new matters), and the Advancement Committee (responsible for advising on the promotion of associates and counsel to the partnership). Fred is honored to have been selected foreign lawyer of the year.

Contacts



Lloyd Parker
Regional Managing Partner - Asia-Pacific,
Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8256
lloyd.parker@hoganlovells.com



Dr. Frederick Ch'en
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8263
frederick.chen@hoganlovells.com



Sean Conaty
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8261
sean.conaty@hoganlovells.com



Hiroto Imai
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8166
hiroto.imai@hoganlovells.com



Wataru Kamoto
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8163
wataru.kamoto@hoganlovells.com



Joseph Kim
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8260
joseph.kim@hoganlovells.com



Jacky Scanlan-Dyas
Partner, Tokyo
T +81 3 5157 8214
jacky.scanlan-dyas@hoganlovells.com



Tomoe Takahashi Partner, Tokyo T +81 3 5157 8259 tomoe.takahashi@hoganlovells.com

www.hoganlovells.com

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