

Jeffrey P. Richter

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Jeffrey Richter is an associate whose practice combines litigation, arbitration, and cross-border commercial transactions, representing companies in disputes and transactions spanning the US and Asia.

Jeffrey's litigation practice focuses on US-based litigation and international arbitration. He has significant experience helping clients resolve disputes across a wide variety of areas, including commercial contract, licensing, M&A, employment, retiree benefits, product liability, and class action defense. He has represented clients in courts across the US and international arbitrations under a variety of rules.

Jeffrey further advises clients on cross-border commercial transactions, including M&A, joint ventures, supply and distribution arrangements, and general commercial transactions. He has experience drafting and negotiating a wide variety of agreements, and is actively involved in strategic planning, helping navigate and bridge technical and cultural gaps in cross-border business transactions.

Jeffrey has represented companies across many industries, including film, television, manufacturing, aerospace, energy, entertainment, and life sciences. He has also engaged in substantial pro bono work on behalf of major animal rights organizations and indigent individuals.

Before moving to Tokyo, Jeffrey spent several years as an associate in the firm's global headquarters in Pittsburgh. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a judicial law clerk to a United States Federal District Court judge.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Listed in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Japan*™ for Corporate and Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2025-2027
- Animal Legal Defense Fund Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award, 2019, 2022-2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Economic Security Task Force, Member

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Iowa College of Law, 2016 *(with high distinction; Order of the Coif; Iowa Law Review; Moot Court Board)*
- B.A., University of Iowa, 2011

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

LANGUAGES

- English
- Japanese

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- September-October 2026, Japan Blocks Foreign Acquisition on National Security Grounds, Signaling Increased Scrutiny, *The Global Regulatory Developments Journal*
- 2 June 2026, Japan Blocks Foreign Acquisition on National Security Grounds, Signaling Increased Scrutiny
- January 2026, Arbitration World
- 15 September 2020, Litigation Minute: Drafting Pre-litigation Demand Letters

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 April 2026, More Than 80 K&L Gates Lawyers Across Asia-Pacific Recognised in 2027 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Class Action Defense
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing
- Commercial Disputes

- Employment Disputes
- International Arbitration

INDUSTRIES

- Aerospace and Defense
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Manufacturing
- Media and Entertainment
- Technology
- Video Games and Immersive Technology

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Commercial Disputes, Investigations

- Advise a Japanese food manufacturer in connection with favorably settling a food-labeling class action in California.
- Advise a major US media company in a dispute with a Japanese contractor over construction costs for an entertainment project in Japan.
- Advise a private Japanese client in connection with an internal investigation over financial misconduct at a US-based bank owned by the client.
- Represent an aerospace materials manufacturer in three separate ICC arbitrations seated in London, Paris, and Geneva in defending claims of over US$1 billion brought by a major manufacturer of commercial passenger and military aircraft, related to the supply of alleged defective products.
- Represent a global aluminum manufacturer in defense of two separate putative class actions in US federal court brought by labor unions challenging changes to retiree healthcare and life insurance benefits.
- Advise a Japanese clothing manufacturer in connection with liability issues arising from the bankruptcy of its US-based subsidiary.
- Represent a Japanese chemical company in connection with a leak of its proprietary information entrusted to an overseas licensee of its technology.
- Represent a specialty chemicals and advanced materials manufacturer in defense of an environmental putative class action and individual actions in US federal and state courts.
- Represent a Japanese clothing manufacturer in connection with a dispute with one of its US-based distributors related to the supply of alleged defective products.

- Represent a US private investment management company in a AAA arbitration involving a dispute over executive compensation.
- Represent an industrial chemicals manufacturer in connection with insurance claims for property damage at its manufacturing facility resulting from an industrial accident.
- Represent an aluminum manufacturer in defense of breach of contract claims in US federal court arising out of an international mining services contract.
- Represent a specialty metals manufacturer in a AAA arbitration involving a land-sharing dispute with neighboring industrial landowners.
- Represent a specialty chemicals manufacturer in obtaining insurance coverage for asbestos product liabilities.
- Represent an industrial equipment manufacturer in connection with asbestos liabilities arising from assets purchased in a bankruptcy sale.
- Represent a municipality in obtaining insurance coverage for environmental liabilities.

Corporate and Commercial Transactions, Regulatory

- Advise a Japanese energy company on the operation and governance of a joint venture for an oil refinery project in Vietnam.
- Advise a US media company in a series of transactions to develop, own, and operate a major entertainment enterprise in Japan.
- Advise a government entity on various agreements for the development of a pavilion for the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan.
- Advise a Japan-based global consulting firm in connection with a variety of regulatory issues across multiple jurisdictions, including the UK, Germany, and Indonesia.
- Represent a Japanese medical products company in a series of distribution agreements and related transactions.
- Represent a major Japanese research and consulting company in the sale of its US-based subsidiary.
- Advise a US media-ratings company in connection with its acquisition of a Japanese media-ratings company.
- Represent a Korean automotive parts manufacturer in connection with implementing commercial warranty agreements across multiple global jurisdictions.

Labor and Employment

- Advise the Japan branch of a German medical device company on labor law issues in connection with performance-based dismissal.
- Advise the Japan branch of a Taiwan-based entertainment company in connection with an internal investigation for allegations of employee misconduct.

- Advise a Netherlands-based global logistics company on labor law issues in connection with redundancy dismissals at its Japan branch.
- Advise an Australia-based global medical device manufacturer on labor law issues in connection with redundancy dismissals at its Japan branch.
- Represent a global health and security firm in connection with an internal investigation for allegations of harassment involving its Japanese subsidiary.