

Takahiro Kawaguchi

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Takahiro Kawaguchi is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. His practice focuses on asset finance (with an emphasis on aircraft, shipping, and real estate), mergers and acquisitions, banking and insolvency matters, with experience in strategic M&A, inbound M&A into Japan, cross-border reorganization, acquisition finance, and complex financial transactions.

Takahiro has represented a broad range of clients such as Japanese leasing companies, Japanese trading companies, Japanese and foreign banks, securities companies, and other financial institutions.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Takahiro was admitted to practice law in Japan in 2000 and joined the firm in 2010. Before he joined the firm, he spent a year at the London office of an international law firm in addition to his careers in Japan.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Aviation and Air Travel - Finance, 2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer for Banking and finance: International firms and joint ventures in Japan, 2024
- *Who's Who Legal: Japan - Aviation,* 2020
- *Expert Guides - Aviation,* 2020
- Included in *The Best Lawyers in Japan*™ for Banking and Finance Law, 2020

EDUCATION

- LL.M., University of Southern California Law School, 2005
- The Legal Training and Research Institute of Japan, 2000

- LL.B., Waseda University, 1995

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Japan (Dai-ni Tokyo Bar Association)

LANGUAGES

- English
- Japanese

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 April 2026, More Than 80 K&L Gates Lawyers Across Asia-Pacific Recognised in 2027 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 12 June 2019, K&L Gates Assists on First-of-its-Kind Japanese Operating Lease Asset-Backed Security Transaction
- 18 February 2019, K&L Gates Receives Multiple Recognitions at *Global Transport Finance* Awards

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented Tokyo Century Corporation (formerly Century Tokyo Leasing Corporation) (“TC”) with its acquisition of 20% U.S. based aircraft leasing company Aviation Capital Group (“ACG”). Prior to the 20% acquisition by TC, ACG was a 100% subsidiary of Pacific Life Insurance. ACG’s current portfolio is around 270 aircraft (mostly narrow-body planes) with plans to increase this to a portfolio of around 440. This deal was awarded ‘Equity Deal of the Year Award’ by Airline Economics in 2017.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on multiple JOL transactions involving multiple aircraft and portfolios on lease to Air Asia, Air Canada, Air France, ANA, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Cathay Pacific, KLM, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Cebu Pacific, Easyjet, Germanwings, Vueling and Wizz Air.

- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on JOLCO transactions involving Boeing 737-800 and B737 Max 8 aircraft on lease to COPA; multiple B737-800 for Jet2; the first brand new (2) Airbus A320neo for Lufthansa; A319 for Germanwings and B737 Max 8 for Royal Air Morocco.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on JOLCO transactions involving eight (8) B737-800 on lease to Jet2; four (4) A320neo for SAS Scandinavian Airlines, a B787-9 and the first A350-1000 for Virgin Atlantic.
- Advised Japanese investors in relation to the JOL financings for Airbus aircraft on lease to ANA, Boeing aircraft on lease to TUIfly and Turkish Airlines.