

2013 Country Report - Japan

I Overview of the Member Organization

1 Basic Information (please include the following items)

- Name

Japan Federation of Bar Associations

- Year of establishment

1949

- History

The first formal regulation of attorneys (*bengoshi*) in Japan can be traced back to February 1876, when the Attorney Rules (*Menkyo Daigen-nin Kisoku*) were enacted. At that time attorneys were called *Daigen-nin* and enjoyed a special status and prerogative to represent clients in court, but were subject to strict supervision by public prosecutors. In 1893, the first Attorney Act was enacted, which limited the scope of attorneys' reserved practice to courtroom work. This law also established a qualifying examination for attorneys and proscribed the registration of attorneys in each district court jurisdiction. Local bar associations were also established but were subject to the overall supervision of the Chief District Public Prosecutors of the competent district. In 1933, amendments to the Attorney Act expanded the scope of the attorneys' reserved practice to a much wider range of legal work. Even under the amended law, bar associations remained under the supervision of the Minister of Justice. In 1946, the present Constitution of Japan, with its guiding principles being the protection of fundamental human rights, democracy (popular sovereignty), and pacifism, was adopted, bringing with it a historic transformation in the role of attorneys. The current Attorney Act, enacted in 1949 after the establishment of the Constitution of Japan, transferred supervision of attorneys from the Minister of Justice to the JFBA and bar associations. It defined the mission of attorneys as being the protection of fundamental human rights and the realization of social justice. These concepts of self-regulation, protection of fundamental human rights, and achievement of social justice continue to be the core values of attorneys of Japan.

- Type of membership (mandatory or voluntary)

Mandatory

The JFBA is a federal body comprised of 52 local bar associations in Japan, individual attorneys, legal professional corporations, *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* (registered foreign legal consultants) and other members. Attorneys, legal professional corporations, and registered foreign lawyers must register with the JFBA at the same time as they are admitted to local bar associations. Therefore, all attorneys, legal professional corporations, and registered foreign lawyers in Japan form the JFBA.

– Organizational structure

Members	Local Bar Associations (52)	
	Attorneys	
	Legal Professional Corporations	
	Quasi-Members	
	Okinawa Special Members	
	Foreign Special Members	Registered Foreign Lawyers (<i>Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi</i>)
Legislative Bodies	General Meeting	The JFBA's highest decision-making body in which important issues such as budgets and establishment and revision of the JFBA's Articles/rules are deliberated.
	House of Delegates	Deliberates mainly on the selection of Vice Presidents, Governors, and Auditors.
	Board of Executive Governors	Deliberates mainly on issues related to rules and regulations of local bar associations.
	Board of Governors	Deliberates mainly on issues related to JFBA regulations, agendas of the General Meeting, and JFBA opinion papers, etc.
Executives	President (1)	Directly elected by all attorney members, 2-year term.
	Vice Presidents (13)	1-year term
	Governors (71)	1-year term
	Executive Governors (39)	Elected by the Governors from among themselves, 1-year term.
	Auditors (5)	1-year term
Committees	Statutory Committees (7)	Established by the Attorney Act and the Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Legal Services by Foreign Lawyers.
	Standing Committees (5)	Established by the Articles of Association of the JFBA.
	Special Committees (over 70)	
Secretariat	Secretary General (1)	
	Deputy Secretary Generals (6)	
	Research Office	Conducts research on judicial issues
	Public Information Office	Publicizes the JFBA's activities, including providing information to the media and operation of the JFBA website.
	Office of International Affairs	Serves as a liaison for international activities of the JFBA.
	Research Office for Judicial Reform	Conducts research and studies on judicial reforms and makes related materials.
	Office for Legal Education	Collects various information on legal training including law schools, the bar examination, and legal apprentice training and considers the JFBA's measures as well as serving as a liaison with law schools, those who wish to be legal professionals, and ministries/agencies concerned.
	Office for Human Rights Protection	Provides support for the JFBA Human Rights Protection Committee in its human rights relief activities.
	Office on Information and Statistics	Collects, analyzes, maintains, and provides information on activities of the JFBA/local bar associations and the judicial system, and edits and publishes the White Paper on Attorneys.
	Office of Continuing Legal Education and Legal Practice	Plans training programs for attorneys, researches, studies, and provides information on practice areas of attorneys.
	Office on Legislative Issues	Researches and studies legislative issues and supports in making JFBA recommendations on the issues.
	Office on Japan Legal Support Center	Researches and studies issues related to the Japan Legal Support Center (JLSC) to establish JFBA policies for improving the JLSC.
	Secretariat Staff	16 divisions

- Number of members[As End of April, 2013]

Local Bar Associations	52
Member Attorneys	33,652
Special Members in Okinawa	9
Registered Foreign Lawyers	360
Legal Professional Corporations	668

2 List of current executive members (or members of the equivalent body in charge of the management of the organization)

President	Kenji YAMAGISHI
Vice President	Yutaro KIKUCHI
	Takashi YOKOMIZO
	Ryota YAMAGISHI
	Yumi EBIHARA
	Yoshifusa SANO
	Tetsuaki FUKUHARA
	Kazunori HARUNA
	Nobuhisa YASUI
	Hidemasa KAWADA
	Sachiko MATSUDA
	Kazumi OSAWA
	Kiyoshi FUSAGAWA
	Hiroshi TAMURA
Secretary General	Tadashi ARA
Deputy Secretary General	Shigeru NIHEI
	Hirobumi SUZUKI
	Yuji ONUKI
	Tomoko SUGANUMA
	Maki KANEKAWA
	Keiichi NOGUCHI

PDF with photos are found at the following URL:

<http://www.nichibenren.or.jp/library/en/about/data/officers-en2013.pdf>

3 Contact information

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II Attorney System

1 Legal status of lawyers

- If there are any areas of service or practice exclusively restricted to lawyers
The Attorney Act also gives attorneys exclusive rights to provide legal services, unless explicitly stated to the contrary. Representatives for the parties must be qualified attorneys in order to argue cases at court (although representation is not compulsory), except for summary court.

- A list of such areas (if there are)

All legal representations, except activities in special areas of law (e.g. tax, patent) or claims involving less than 1.4 million yen at stake (to judicial scriveners) whose right for representation is also granted to professionals other than lawyers by law.

2 Qualification systems

To become qualified to practice as an attorney, judge, or prosecutor, one must complete a law school curriculum, pass the bar examination, and complete a one-year apprenticeship at the Legal Training and Research Institute of the Supreme Court. The new system requiring graduation from law school as a qualification for the bar examination commenced in April 2004. Under the old system, anyone could take the bar examination, but this system ended in 2010. In 2011, Japan instituted another system under which candidates will be able to sit for the bar examination by passing a preliminary test which anyone can take, even if they have not completed law school. This system is intended for those who, for financial and other reasons, are unable to attend the law school, and is considered as an exception to the law school requirement. As special exceptions, candidates with practical experience in the law, as defined by the Attorney Act, and candidates that have served as professors and assistant professors at law schools after passing the bar examination may be qualified as attorneys without completing a one-year apprenticeship but after completing a training course assigned by the Minister

of Justice and being certified by the Minister of Justice.

Attorneys, judges, and public prosecutors are distinct statuses that cannot be held by the same person at the same time but they receive the same basic education and training, making it possible for judges and prosecutors to become attorneys and vice versa. Japanese citizenship is not required to qualify as an attorney.

Once qualified, candidates must register with the JFBA in order to practice as attorneys. In addition to becoming members of the JFBA, attorneys must also join the local bar association where their practices are located and they come under the supervision of both organizations.

3 Regulation on legal services provided by non-lawyers

Representatives for the parties must be qualified attorneys in order to argue cases at court, except for summary court. In addition to prohibiting unqualified persons from providing legal services, the law also defines unauthorized practice of law as a criminal activity.

4 Regulation on foreign registered legal consultants

In order for qualified attorneys from other countries to practice law in Japan, they are required to register their names in the roster of registered foreign lawyers held by the JFBA. The first thing they have to do is to receive the status of "registered foreign legal consultant" (*gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi*) with the approval of the Minister of Justice. Certain requirements must be met, for example, practical experience of more than 3 years in their home countries. After approval by the Minister of Justice, qualified foreign attorneys may only practice law as *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* by registering with the JFBA. As such, they are authorized to provide legal services with respect to the laws of the country in which they have the status of attorney (country of primary qualification) and the laws of other countries designated by the Minister of Justice (designated countries). They may also provide legal services with respect to the laws of third countries other than those of the country of primary qualification and the designated countries, provided they receive written advice from a qualified lawyer of the said third country. In addition, *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* as well as qualified foreign lawyers who are not registered as *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi*, may represent clients in international arbitration proceedings. On the other hand, *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* are

barred from certain forms of practice, for example, representing clients in proceedings at Japanese courts or government tribunals, even if these proceedings are related to the laws of the country of primary qualification or the designated countries. A *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* may employ a *bengoshi* but is neither allowed to handle legal services beyond the scope of practice permitted nor give an order related to such legal services to the *bengoshi* whom she/he employs. A *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* may also operate a joint legal practice with a *bengoshi*. However, when operating such legal practices, *gaikokuho-jimu-bengoshi* are prohibited from inappropriate involvement in legal services outside the scope of their qualifications.

III Regular Activities Conducted by the Organization

- 1 Contents of the activities (disciplinary actions, CLE, involvement in the nurturing process of legal profession, public interest activities, other services for its members, services for the public, etc.)

1 Protection of Human Rights

The JFBA undertakes human rights activities by establishing a number of committees to cover various themes and aspects of human rights, including the Human Rights Protection Committee. These committees work in collaboration with local bar associations.

The Human Rights Protection Committee categorizes human rights issues into seven areas and conducts study and research in each area. It also provides specific individual relief services when requests are received from the general public.

Another important activity of the Human Rights Protection Committee is the relief of people declared guilty through faulty court proceedings when they are in fact innocent. The Retrial Subcommittee, working under the Human Rights Protection Committee, seeks relief in these miscarriages of justice and has indeed proven innocence in more than a dozen retrials.

In addition, the JFBA expands its activities through various committees working on specific issues, including: 1) the attainment of children's rights, including issues of prevention of child abuse and delinquency, 2) the realization of a gender-equal society in which both men and women can participate fully, dealing with various issues concerning the equality of men and women in the

areas of labor, education, welfare, etc., 3) the realization of the rights of the elderly and those with disabilities, 4) assistance for victims of crime, 5) environmental issues such as preservation of the natural environment, the prevention of global warming, waste management and antipollution, and other measures striving for the attainment of a resource-recycling society, 6) research into illegal business practices or large-scale cases of consumer victimization, aiming at consumer protection and the prevention and relief of consumer victimization, and 7) labor and poverty issues.

2 Disaster Reconstruction Assistance

(1) Reconstruction Assistance for Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake
For reconstruction assistance for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and its subsequent tsunami of March 11, 2011 the JFBA established its Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control on the very day of March 11, 2011. Legal consultation services were developed and provided nationwide, with a focus on the disaster-stricken areas, rooted in the basic standpoint of "human reconstruction," seeking restoration of fundamental human rights for each individual. Its mission later came to include relief for the victims of the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant triggered by the earthquake,

(2) Responses to Nuclear Power Plant Accident

The JFBA has also been conducting extensive activities for relief of the victims of the incident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, which was triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In regards to claims for damage by the victims of the nuclear power plant incident, the JFBA has made approaches to seek complete compensation for the victims from the Tokyo Electric Power Company, and has sought relief measures for the victims of the nuclear power plant incident, partly through working for the establishment of the Center for Dispute Resolution for Compensating Damages from the Nuclear Power Plant Incident, which makes it possible for the victims to be compensated through simpler proceedings than lawsuits.

3 Law-Related Education

The JFBA has been engaged in "law-related education," which teaches the

basic value of law and legal approaches. As Japanese society moves its focus drastically away from administrative control in advance to judicial remedy after-the-fact, it is more urgent than ever that the general public, particularly children who will lead the future society, understand the role and value of the law so as to foster their motivation for actively participating in judicial procedures, and acquire the skills necessary to take independent action in accordance with the principles of law.

In connection with this, the JFBA has formulated and implemented law-related education policies, conducted information exchanges with legal professionals, educators, and others, studied and developed law-related education materials to be used in schools, and also supervised the publication of picture books regarding laws in order to educate primary school children. In addition, it has advocated the establishment of law-related education programs in local bar associations, has conducted training for attorneys and teachers, and has also performed international benchmark studies.

Local bar associations, in coordination with schools, work on providing classes where attorneys teach in schools, and work out “junior law school programs” which provide law-related education to children invited from the public, and training for teachers. The JFBA collects and provides related information in addition to providing various other forms of support.

4 Efforts to Improve Access to Justice

Duty Attorney (*Toban Bengoshi*) System

The Duty Attorney System is a private-sector system created by each local bar association.

When requested by a suspect prior to indictment, the duty attorney quickly visits the suspect's place of detention and interviews the suspect, regardless of their nationality or visa status. If the suspect is a foreign national, an interpreter accompanies the duty attorney. The first consultation with a duty attorney is basically free of charge, and the interpretation fee is likewise free.

Establishment and Operation of Bar Funded Law Offices

The JFBA has endeavored to make the judicial system more accessible and open to the general public, and one of its goals has been to create a system that

would ensure that attorneys are available and nearby throughout the country so that the public can quickly and appropriately seek protection of their rights. It has therefore made efforts to eliminate areas suffering from shortage of attorneys.

Financial Support for the Elimination of Areas with Attorney Shortages

The JFBA commenced a project to provide economic support for lawyers establishing their offices in areas facing shortages of attorneys from January 2008. This project is intended to encourage attorneys to settle in areas facing shortages of attorneys, with such areas being under the jurisdiction of a branch of a local district court and having populations of 30,000 or more per attorney.

Legal Counseling Centers

Local bar associations have established legal counseling centers so as to provide all citizens with timely access to consultation by attorneys , anywhere. The types of consultations provided and consultation fees differ from center to center, and many bar associations, besides general legal consultations, offer specialized consultations on issues such as multiple consumer loan problems, family problems, etc.

Legal Expenses Insurance

The JFBA opened the "JFBA Legal Access Center" in July 2000, which will refer an appropriate attorney of a bar association to any insured who has purchased legal expenses insurance from an insurance company under an agreement with the JFBA, upon notification of a case from the insurance company.

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

The JFBA believes that lawyers as experts in legal practice who are at the frontline of dispute resolution should proactively play central roles in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which is notable for its simplicity, promptness, and flexibility. Thus, including activities for the encouragement of establishing ADR in local bar associations, the JFBA conducts various approaches to expand trustworthy and easily accessible ADR for the public.

5 Efforts toward the Drastic Reform of Criminal Procedures

In order to prevent false confessions arising from illegal and unreasonable interrogation by investigators, to achieve truly fair trials, and to eliminate false charges, the JFBA demands that the government undertake relevant measures for video/audio recording of all processes of interrogations, improvement of the detention and bail systems, realization of “the principle of equality of arms” including in terms of discovery, enhancement of the court-appointed defense counsel system, abolishment of *Daiyo-Kangoku* (detention rooms at police stations being used as substitutes for detention centers), and establishment of an independent third party institution for ascertaining the causes for occurrence of false charges. The JFBA is also working on reforms relating to review of the penal system, suspension of executions, support for crime victims and public attendant system for juvenile cases.

6 Activities Related to the Practice of Law

Legal Practice Reforms

With the notable increase in the number of attorneys resulting from the judicial reform process, the JFBA, strongly feeling the need to expand, strengthen, and reform the practice of law, has embarked on a program to research, study, and review legal practice in order to envisage an ideal model for the 21st century and to develop and actualize proposals for new systems.

The JFBA has been conducting research and studies, and has implemented various measures on legal practice reforms, including the commencement of services of providing attorney-related information, such as the "Himawari Search" (a system that allows web-based searches for attorneys by fields of law), the improvement of training systems (training programs downloadable via the Internet, etc.), the enhancement of the number of in-house attorneys into corporations or governmental bodies, the verification of the remuneration system of court-appointed defense attorneys, the review of the quality of services rendered by lawyers, and research into the economic bases of legal practice, to name but a few.

Young Professional Assistance

The JFBA engages in support activities to improve the quality of legal

professionals and to enhance operational assistance for young lawyers. Such support activities include support in the development of career plans for legal apprentices and young lawyers, the promotion of employment in corporations, governmental and public offices, and local governments as part of such career plan formation, hosting various recruiting opportunities online and offline to provide assistance in entering law offices in order to ensure that new lawyers have on-the-job training opportunities, and a tutoring system for those lawyers who have commenced their own practices at an early stage following (or immediately after) their registration as lawyers.

7 Promotion of Appointment of Attorneys as Judges

"Appointment of attorneys as judges" refers to the appointment of a person as a judge who has experience as an attorney. In most cases, Japanese judges are appointed as "assistant judges" immediately after completion of their legal apprentice training, and directly become a "judge" 10 years later. The Supreme Court and the JFBA established a new system for the appointment of attorneys as judges in 2002, and have collaborated in the promotion of the system.

8 Activities to Improve the Legal System

Since its inception, the JFBA has conducted research and studies on a wide range of legal systems. It has also formulated opinions and issued recommendations in order for the government to take necessary measures to improve legal systems, including civil law, criminal law, procedural law, civil execution law, bankruptcy law, arbitration law, detention law, administrative law, anti-monopoly law, and labor law. The Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice has been deliberating on amendments to the Civil Code (Part III Claims) and the Companies Act, and in this regard the JFBA has also been conducting research and studies on related issues and making recommendations to the government.

In recent years, JFBA activities have resulted in various amendments in legislation; significant results include amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code, the establishment of a court-appointed attorney system for suspects, the *Saiban-in* (lay judge) system, the labor tribunal system, and the

part-time judge system; amendments to the Moneylending Control Law; amendments to the Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims; and the establishment of the Consumer Affairs Agency, which comprehensively promotes consumer protection issues.

9 Training Programs

The JFBA is enhancing training programs for attorneys in order to maintain and strengthen public confidence in attorneys, and to adequately respond to the public's legal needs. Specific training programs are ethical training, training for newly-registered attorneys, and training to improve practical skills (including *e-learning*, training courses offered over internet).

10 Approaches for Realization of Gender Equality

The JFBA is engaged in promoting gender equality within the Federation itself, in addition to within regional federations and local bar associations and it actively tackles gender problems existing in the judicial field.

11 International Activities

International Human Rights Activities

The JFBA engages in the research and study of international human rights treaties and other international human rights standards and endeavors to improve the human rights situation within Japan. Specific activities of the JFBA in this field include the submission of reports relating to the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) of Japan to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and alternative reports to respective treaty bodies of the international human rights treaties that Japan has ratified. Furthermore, the JFBA has been accredited with NGO consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council and has attended sessions of UN meetings including the UN Human Rights Council in this capacity.

International Exchange Activities

The JFBA is a member of four international organizations, the IBA (International Bar Association), LAWASIA (the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific), the

ICB (International Criminal Bar) and the ILAC (International Legal Assistance Consortium).

The JFBA has also signed memorandums on strengthening legal exchange and friendly mutual cooperation and thereby deepened relationships with legal organizations overseas. The MOUs between the JFBA/local bar associations and overseas bar organizations are as follows:

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International Cooperation

The JFBA began to be active in international cooperation in 1995 and has sent lecturers to seminars held by various organizations in Japan that invite trainees from overseas and also dispatches attorneys to countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia, Laos, Indonesia, China and Nepal, as JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) experts.

Provision of Information to Domestic and International Audiences

The JFBA has been actively providing information overseas regarding the human rights situation in Japan, the Japanese legal system, and our organization. For Japanese audiences, the JFBA collects news and information on legal profession from various international sources and publishes a monthly report for relevant staffs and committees, and its website has the International Human Rights Library and the World Bar Associations Directory on bar associations/law societies around the world. Furthermore, the JFBA provides information for attorneys who are interested in working in international fields.

Overseas Visiting Fellow Program

This program gives attorneys who engage in public-interest activities the chance to study overseas. Agreements were made with law schools of New York University in 1997, the University of California, Berkeley in 1999, the University of Illinois in 2007, and the University of Essex in 2011, regarding attorneys recommended by the JFBA as visiting fellows or students in the LL.M. (Master of Law) program at law schools (Currently, the LL.M. course is available only at the University of Essex.)

Assistance for International Development of Small and Medium Companies

In order to assist with the widespread overseas business deployment of small and medium companies, mainly in Asian countries, and to respond to their needs for legal assistance, the JFBA has engaged in various activities in three fields, namely, the training of attorneys, collaboration with various stakeholders in international business deployment within Japan, and cooperation with overseas bar associations.

2 How these activities are conducted by the organizations (by hired staffs, voluntary committee members, etc.)

The JFBA undertakes its activities by establishing a number of committees to cover various themes, as described in the chart shown in I-4. These committees work in collaboration with local bar associations.

Committee members work part-time on voluntary basis. The JFBA also has part-time paid attorneys as officers who are engaged in these activities in collaboration with relevant committees.

IV Developments and Challenges in 2012-2013

1 Notable changes or achievements in the regular activities described in question III

JFBA's Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident

The JFBA set up an Emergency Headquarters immediately after the earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident, and has been providing, in cooperation with bar associations, regional federations of bar associations and the Japan Legal Support Center, free legal-counseling services for the disaster victims through telephone as well as visiting evacuation centers, local governments, and other places in the affected areas. The JFBA has also been exerting its efforts to support the disaster victims by making recommendations on various legislation, modifications to existing laws, and necessary policies in order to resolve various post-disaster problems.

As a principle, the JFBA believes that the disaster victims are the core of recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas and such recovery and reconstruction plans should be carried out aiming at "reconstruction of people,"

that is, recovery of their fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Japan. According to this principle, the JFBA has been working to relieve people affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear power plant accident and recover and reconstruct the affected areas by doing the following: providing legal support for the disaster victims such as free legal consultations at evacuation centers, etc., and making recommendations for solving double loan issues; making recommendations for the realization of appropriate compensation to those affected by the nuclear power plant accident, and calling for legislation to support the nuclear victims under the responsibility of the state in reconstructing their lives for which compensation is not enough; and providing support for reconstruction of towns and communities in the affected areas.

As an unprecedented achievement, these JFBA's activities have successfully pushed the government and lawmakers in the short time to enact concrete laws and improve the operation of existing laws. However, it is also true that the current status of victim relief and the progress of recovery and reconstruction are still far from complete.

Without allowing our memories of this tragedy to fade away, the JFBA is expected to bring together the wisdom of all attorneys and continuously make its utmost efforts to relieve victims of the earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear power plant accident and recover and reconstruct the affected areas by deeply understanding the real situation of these victims and affected areas.

2 Irregular or special activities conducted during the year

Continuous support on the Earthquake victims as described above.

3 Major challenges faced by the organization in the near future

1 Reform of the system for nurturing legal professionals

Immediately from the start of 2013, the JFBA has collected and pour its strength into dealing with the matters to be discussed at the Panel regarding “the system for nurturing legal professionals” established based on the Cabinet decision where significant and difficult issues are being discussed such as the future of sphere of activities of Japanese lawyers, the number of lawyers in the

future, how to improve the entire system of legal education including the law school system, the bar examination, the legal apprenticeship system, and continuing legal education. The JFBA calls for the Panel to discuss and decide concrete measures on the following issues: i) the abolition or merger of law schools with due consideration being given to an appropriate regional allocation of law schools, ii) the promotion of a drastic reduction in the total maximum number of law school students, and iii) the realization of financial support measures for those seeking to become legal professionals.

2 Necessity of realizing the transparency of interrogations

The necessity of realizing both the recording of the entire process of interrogations and a full-scale evidence disclosure system has become widely recognized among the public because of the cases which have reached the media especially in the latter half of 2012, such as, the case of the not-guilty ruling for Mr. Mainali, a Nepali, at his retrial for the 1997 Tokyo murder case of a female TEPCO employee, and a case involving cybercrime in which four people were wrongfully arrested on suspicion of sending threatening messages from their computers, which had actually been remotely manipulated by a hacker.

It will not be easy to realize the introduction of such systems for various reasons, one of which being the fact that there has been a continued discussion on the introduction of new investigation methods on the prosecutor's side in exchange for the adoption of the audio/video recording of the entire process of the interrogations. However, the JFBA will continue our efforts to achieve the recording of the entire process of interrogations, the disclosure system of evidence held by prosecutors, as well as a full-scale public attendant system.

3 Expansion of the areas of lawyers' legal practices and support for young legal professionals

In order to make it possible for prospective students and young legal professionals to pursue their career as legal professionals, the JFBA will continue our efforts toward the expansion of the areas of lawyers' legal practices so that compliance and internal control systems at business

enterprises and administrative authorities can be improved with the help of in-house lawyers.

The JFBA will also give a high priority to the following areas: i) support for young legal professionals; ii) enhancement of legal training; iii) further information sharing among members in all regional areas; and iv) further PR activities directed towards the public with the introduction of a uniform nationwide telephone consultation service (launched on March 1, 2013) for Legal Counseling Centers throughout Japan.