

WINDS FROM JAPAN

The Licensing Executives Society Japan

Message from the New President

By Chikako HASHIMOTO *



It is with great honor and humility that I assume the role of President of LES Japan. As I step into this position, I am filled with gratitude for the trust you have placed in me and enthusiasm for the journey ahead.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your ongoing dedication, support, and contributions to LES Japan. Your commitment has been the bedrock of our association, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and passionate community.

One of the distinctive features of LES Japan is that it consists of companies, lawyers, patent attorneys, and researchers who are active in the field of intellectual property and licensing. Together, we deepen our knowledge, engage in research, and exchange information in a friendly atmosphere. Under the excellent leadership of past presidents, our association has grown to become one of the leading organizations in the intellectual property field in Japan.

In particular, the ideal environment where members learn while enjoying themselves, often referred to as the "Learn and Enjoy Society," is the greatest point. I hope that we can continue to uphold and further enrich the excellence and tradition of our association, especially as we passed the milestone of 50 years and navigated through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, entering into a new era.

To achieve this, I am committed to fully supporting member activities by actively seeking your valuable opinions, maintaining and enhancing the strengths of LES Japan, and striving for further improvement.

The world has undergone significant changes in recent years, and I believe that our association also requires adaptation. Rather than resisting change, it may be more beneficial to evolve naturally in accordance with the trends of the world.

Looking ahead, I see considerations towards diversity, encouraging participation from younger generations, and promoting international communication. While activities related to diversity, such as the Women in Licensing Alliance (WILA), began at the Yokohama conference in 2019 but were interrupted domestically due to the pandemic, I hope to resume WILA activities domestically.

For the activities of younger generations, we have the Young Member Congress (YMC). We will hold the YMC Asia Pacific Conference in Tokyo this April, and I hope to see many young members participate in the activities of LES Japan.

Regarding international activities and exchanges, in addition to participating in the LES International Annual Conference and IMDM in Madrid at the end of April, we also aim to collaborate with other Asia-Pacific societies.

The activities of our association cannot succeed without your active participation, support, and cooperation. We sincerely ask for your continued assistance.

In the coming months, I look forward to collaborating with each of you, listening to your ideas and feedback, and working together to build a brighter future for our association.

Thank you once again for your trust and support. I am excited and honored to serve as your President, and I am committed to working on behalf of LES Japan and its members.

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\* *President of LES Japan, Chief Manager of Trademark Department, Sakai International Patent Office*

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# Monthly seminar with Judge Alan ALBRIGHT, US District Court for the Western District of Texas

By Tomoko NOGUCHI \*

LES Japan held the monthly seminar in Tokyo on Dec 18, 2023, titled “What Makes Waco Different and so Popular - How Japanese Companies Can Succeed in this Venue”, presented by US District Judge Alan ALBRIGHT.



This was the first visit to Tokyo for Judge ALBRIGHT, and nearly a hundred LES Japan members including people who actually had/have lawsuits in his court gathered to listen to him. The presentation from Judge ALBRIGHT mainly consisted of two parts: 1) why he issued a “Standing order Governing Proceedings” on Apr 4, 2023, including the background of the order and his underlying thoughts on the matter, and 2) Judge ALBRIGHT’s thoughts on the “Order Assigning the business of the court as it relates to Patent Cases” issued on July 25, 2022, by Chief US District Judge Orland GARCIA. Mr. Matthew BERNSTEIN, a litigator at Perkins Coie LLP, also joined as a speaker to give supplemental comments such as litigation procedure in Waco and insights from a lawyer’s point of view.

Unlike usual seminars in Japan, half of the seminar was dedicated for a Q&A session. Judge ALBRIGHT openly answered all questions including very hard ones, and the seminar was successfully concluded.



After the seminar, Mr. Kenichi NAGASAWA, President of LES Japan, Ms. Chikako HASHIMOTO, the President-Elect of LES Japan and Ms. Tomoko NOGUCHI, a moderator and board member of LES Japan had dinner with Judge ALBRIGHT, Mr. BERNSTEIN and Mr. Han-Wei CHEN, partner lawyer of Perkins Coie LLP, and further discussing various IP matters both in US and Japan.

Ms. Tomoko NOGUCHI mentioned that she received multiple messages from both presenters and participants which were all very positive and included glowing reviews for such an active discussion between judge and potential plaintiffs/defendants, which surely will provide positive effects on future patent litigations in US.

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* Director, Licensing, Nokia Solutions and Networks Japan G.K.

2024 LES Japan Annual General Meeting

By Yasuo FUJII*

LES Japan held its Annual General Meeting on February 21st, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan. Participation was limited to in-person only.



Mr. Kenichi NAGASAWA

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Kenichi NAGASAWA, President of LES Japan, delivered his opening remarks summarizing the activities of LES Japan during his two-year term. Then Mr. NAGASAWA reported on the LES Japan activities in 2023, which included:

- 1) Joint Meeting of AIPLA and LES Japan;
- 2) LES Japan Annual Conference in Hamamatsu City with more than 200 participants;
- 3) Seminars;
- 4) Licensing training courses;
- 5) Working Group activities; and
- 6) Publications.

Subsequently, Ms. Chikako HASHIMOTO, the President-Elect of LES Japan explained the activity plans in 2024, where it was emphasized that the following activities will be particularly focused upon:

- 1) planning and holding the LES Japan Annual Conference and providing the members with a comprehensive opportunity for communications and sharing the latest IP issues; and



Ms. Chikako HASHIMOTO

2) participating in LES International events and having active interactions with other LES societies, where the LES International Young Members Congress Asia Pacific Conference will be held in April and a Joint Meeting with LES China in September will be held, both occurring in Tokyo.

Then, the selection of a new President (Ms. Chikako HASHIMOTO), a new President-Elect (Mr. Shoei IMAI), a new Vice-President (Mr. Yasuo FUJII) and new Board members (Mr. Koichiro YAMASHITA, Mr. Yuichi YOSHIMURA and Mr. Kazuhiro KOBAYASHI) were approved.



Mr. Shoei IMAI



Mr. Yasuo FUJII



Mr. Koichiro YAMASHITA



Mr. Yuichi YOSHIMURA



Mr. Kazuhiro KOBAYASHI

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ichiro NAKATOMI, the Immediate Past-President of LES International and Ms. Junko SUGIMURA, the Vice-President of LES International respectively delivered speeches encouraging the members for their international activities



Mr. Ichiro NAKATOMI



Ms. Junko SUGIMURA



Ms. Rumi ICHIKAWA

Just after the meeting, Ms. Rumi ICHIKAWA, the Chair of the organizing committee, announced that the 2024 LES Japan Annual Conference will be held on July 12th and 13th in Niigata City.

Further, for the first time in 5 years (since 2019) the participants enjoyed a party after the meeting. In the party, the members received greetings from the guests: Mr. Tomonari HONDA, the Chief Judge of the Intellectual Property High Court, Mr. Futoshi YASUDA, the Director-General, Trial and Appeal Department, Japan Patent Office; and Ms. Dana NORTHCOTT, International Trademark Association (INTA) 2024 President (VP & Associate General Counsel, IP at Amazon, Inc.).



The party after the meeting

The party was closed with remarks by Mr. Yoshiyuki IWAI, Honorary Advisor of LES Japan and past Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office, expressing his expectations for the development of LES Japan.

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\* Editor / Patent Attorney, Haruka Patent & Trademark Attorneys

## Editors' Note

This issue includes articles " Message from the New President" by Ms. Chikako HASHIMOTO, " Monthly seminar with Judge Alan ALBRIGHT, US District Court for the Western District of Texas" by Ms. Tomoko NOGUCHI, and "2024 LES Japan Annual General Meeting" by Mr. Yasuo FUJII.

Thank you for supporting "*WINDS from Japan.*" This newsletter will continue to provide you with useful information on activities at LES Japan and up-to-date information on IP and licensing activities in Japan.

If you would like to refer to any back issues of our newsletters, you can access them via the following URL:

<https://www.lesj.org/en/winds/new.php>

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