

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

## Announcement

Kajitani Law Offices

The Prime Minister's Cabinet of Japan, in its meeting held on July 30, 2021, decided to appoint **Mr. Masaaki Oka**, former principal attorney of the **Kajitani Law Offices** in Tokyo, to be the newest **Justice of the Supreme Court of Japan**, this nation's highest court. Mr. Oka will succeed Justice Katsuyuki Kizawa, who will retire from the bench on August 26, 2021. Following formal appointment by the Cabinet and formal attestation of the appointment by the Emperor of Japan, Mr. Oka's formal inauguration was on September 3, 2021.

Mr. Oka, a member of the Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association, graduated from Tokyo University in 1980 and was admitted as an attorney-at-law in 1982. He has held various significant posts including vice chairman of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, chairman of the Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association and a member of the Legislative Council of the Civil Law (Law of Obligations) of the Ministry of Justice. He has served as an outside executive of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and an outside executive of the Sumitomo Life Insurance Company. He is 65 years old, and was born in Kagawa Prefecture.

Mr. Oka will step down from Kajitani Law Offices during his time as a Justice of the Supreme Court, where he is expected to serve until reaching the court's retirement age of 70. His rich experience as a practitioner, combined with his character and sense of justice and fairness, have made Mr. Oka widely respected in the Japanese legal community and will serve him well in this new roll on Japan's highest court. Mr. Oka is the second Supreme Court Justice from our firm, following Mr. Gen Kajitani, who served as a Justice from 1999 to 2005.