

Banking & Finance

Structured & Project Finance; Banking & Trust; Real Estate Investment & Financial Regulation



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With a legal career spanning more than two decades, Partner Attorney Toshikazu Sakai, who is also Certified Public Tax Accountant, brings extensive experience in both domestic and cross-border corporate legal and tax affairs, with a particular focus on financial practice.

- **Education & Early Career:** Completed his legal training at the Legal Training & Research Institute of the Supreme Court of Japan in 1999, and commenced his career at Nagashima, Ohno & Tsunematsu (one of Big Four) as an Associate.
- **Subsequent Roles:** Served as Special Counsel at Bingham McCutchen Murase (NY firm), Tokyo office, from 2008, later at Anderson Mori & Tomotsune (another of the Big Four) starting in 2015. In 2020, joined Wizards Worldwide (London firm), Tokyo branch, as Special Counsel, before becoming a Partner at CastGlobalGroup in 2021.
- **Secondments:** Seconded to leading Japanese and foreign financial institutions; MUFG Bank in Tokyo, Deutsche Securities Inc., and JP Investment (Japan Post Group).
- **Additional Roles:** Serves as an outside Director of The Shikoku Bank, Ltd., a licensed local bank under the Banking Act and listed on Prime Market of Tokyo Stock Exchange, and as a compliance officer of a foreign investment advisory firm, which is registered as the Investment Advisory Business Operator under the Financial Instruments & Exchange Act in Japan.

CastGlobal Group brings together an exceptional team of legal, financial and business professionals, which has 15 professional group companies (a law firm, a tax accountant firm and a judicial scrivener firm, etc); a trust company that has licences not only for the Trust Business but also Type II Financial Instruments Business and the Real Estate Brokerage Business; as well as several other group companies, including consulting companies. The group provides comprehensive professional services for cross-border transactions for clients in Japan and overseas, including:

- **FDI**
 1. **Real Estate Investment:** Mr Sakai and CastGlobalGroup provide professional services when foreign investors invest in real estate in Japan. It is common to use certain tax-saving structures with establishment of real estate funds by SPC schemes, such as (i) GK-TK scheme and (ii) TMK scheme. In recent years, trust schemes have become a new trend, such as STO (securities token offering), whose underlying asset is a Special Beneficial Interest in Securities Issuing Trust (SBIST). At present, CastGlobal Trust is the only trust company to accept direct investment by foreign investors in real estate in Japan through SBIST.
 2. **Equity Investment:** Mr Sakai and CastGlobalGroup further provide professional services when foreign companies or individuals invest in Japanese listed and private companies.
- **Banking & Finance**
 1. Advice on the establishment and regulation of investment funds, such as real estate funds (real estate securitisation), as well as private equity funds;
 2. Project finance, including PFI and PPP;
 3. Various trust businesses, such as trusts for real estate investment, including SBIST;
 4. Obtaining various financial and real estate licences, such as under the Financial Instruments & Exchange Act (FIEA), the Real Estate Specified Joint Enterprise Act, the Fund Transfer Business Act, the Money Lending Business Act, the Real Estate Business Act, etc; and
 5. The establishment of various compliance systems, including measures to prevent.