

Catherine O'Connell Formal Bio

Catherine is an award-winning Tokyo-based senior business lawyer, coach-mentor, and law podcaster, with a local and international practice including corporate, commercial, and general business legal services, coaching & mentoring legal professionals and executives, and diplomatic level events MC. She is also an experienced Independent board Member, currently sitting on two Stock Exchange listed international companies and in the unlisted space on Chambers of Commerce and Advisory Boards.

With 30+ years of experience gained through senior management appointments as in-house legal counsel with some of Japan's largest companies and working at top-tier law firms, she provides her clients with a range of strategic, governance, innovative, individual, and team leadership services.

An active and influential Tokyo based executive, Catherine is a lawpreneur and recognised as a trusted adviser, innovator and influencer in her legal and entrepreneurial fields. She provides strategic leadership, oversight and advice to companies, high net worth individuals, SMEs, NPO's and professional bodies as a Chair/Vice-Chair, Non-Executive Board Member, Business owner, and Lawyer. Catherine brings a highly adaptable and resourceful approach, having supported multi-million dollar companies in Japan, helped overseas companies with first-to-market investment opportunities in Japan, and protected the reputation of major corporate brands through solid contracts and business terms. She adds value and develops deep relationships based on integrity and was recently awarded the title of Foreign Lawyer of the Year at the ALB Japan Law Awards 2022, Entrepreneur of the Year in 2020, and identified in the Top 30 People to Watch for the Business of Law in Asia 2022, and 30 Women Legal Innovators in Asia in 2022 by Asia Law Portal.

Catherine is a well-known professional mentor-coach, law podcaster, and diplomatic-level events moderator/MC with a track record in performing as MC for the NZ Prime Minister trade missions to Japan in 2019 and 2022. She understands the big picture of doing business in Japan and also gets down into the details where it is important, be that through her work as a lawyer, coach-mentor, speaker, MC, or podcast host.

She is an inspirational speaker and influencer with a compelling, genuine style. Her local and international subject matter expertise includes business, women's leadership, Japanese and New Zealand business, board governance, business integrity, diversity and inclusion, executive mentoring & coaching, and lawyer wellbeing.

As well as her passion for the law, Catherine holds two Non-Executive board appointments, most recently serving on the Audit and Supervisory Board of Fujitsu Limited (FJTSY: 6702) (a Japanese multinational information and communications technology equipment and services corporation and Japan's largest IT service provider servicing corporate customers in Japan and internationally), and on the board at CSL Behring KK (ASX: CSL) (global biotechnology leader,

world's largest collector of human plasma, and provider of innovative medicine including a wide range of recombinant and plasma-derived products for treating bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies and chronic inflammatory diseases.)

Catherine is also President of Women in Law Japan, a group of women lawyers and allies who come to inspire, connect and empower women working in the law. She is also the curious and engaging host of the award-winning legal Podcast “Lawyer on Air” sharing stories of women’s work and lives in the law in Japan and she co-hosts the “Jandals in Japan” podcast about doing business in Japan, bringing The Land of the Long White Cloud (New Zealand) to The Land of the Rising Sun (Japan).