

# CATHERINE O'CONNELL

*Award-winning Law Firm CEO, Lawpreneur, Podcaster & Board Member*

## Topics I can discuss in English and Japanese

- How you can live your best life as a lawyer anywhere, in your own business, doing work you love
- What it takes to transition from private practice to in house and back again, and then launch your own law firm in Japan
- Doing business in Japan, business entry and set up
- Mistakes people make when trying to do business in Japan
- The steps involved in setting up a law firm in Japan
- Entrepreneurship and Lawpreneurship in Japan
- How to build a thriving business network in Japan
- Launching a podcast workstream for your business
- What it takes to win law and business awards
- How to become an Independent Board Member

## Questions you can ask me:

- Why did you start the Lawyer on Air Podcast?
- How did you become a lawyer in Japan?
- What's involved in setting up a boutique law firm practice in Japan niched down to support corporate legal teams and SMEs?
- How can I work differently or non-traditionally in Japan?
- What are the legal trends and risk areas in business in Japan?
- What are some of the misconceptions people have about living and working as a women in Japan?
- How can I get experience working as a lawyer in Japan?
- What did it take to win Foreign Lawyer of the Year, the BCCJ 2020 Entrepreneur of the Year Award (and two other awards in a pandemic year)?
- What do I need to be an Entrepreneur in Japan or set up business in Japan?
- How can men help women's empowerment?
- What do young lawyers you mentor need to know about life in Japan?
- How do I build a business network in Japan?



## Profile

**BILINGUAL (ENGLISH & JAPANESE) LAWYER PRINCIPAL  
AND FOUNDER OF CATHERINE O'CONNELL LAW**

Catherine, a New Zealander, is an in house legal counsel-experienced lawyer operating a boutique law firm in Tokyo, and Independent Board Member of Fujitsu. As the first foreign female lawyer to launch a law firm in Tokyo, she provides flexible legal counsel solutions for big and small clients, and works as outside General Counsel for corporates & entrepreneurs. She excels at cross-cultural business communication bridging Western and Japan mindsets. She has over 20 years experience of working and living in Japan and is currently the President of Women in Law Japan. She won Foreign Lawyer of the Year Award at the Japan Law Awards 2022, and she won the BCCJ British Business Awards Entrepreneur of the Year in 2020. She loves rugby, New Zealand wine and being a leader in the international community in Japan.

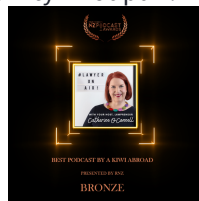
## Connect with Catherine

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## Catherine is also the host of the Lawyer on Air Podcast

Catherine connects with legal ladies in Japan to give a voice to the community of powerful women not often heard from.

Listen at: <https://www.catherineoconnelllaw.com/podcast>