



# CATHERINE O'CONNELL

BILINGUAL (ENGLISH & JAPANESE) LAWYER  
PRINCIPAL AND FOUNDER OF  
CATHERINE O'CONNELL LAW  
OUTSIDE BOARD MEMBER  
LAWYER, PODCASTER

## PERSONAL PROFILE

I am Principal of my own boutique law firm in Tokyo. I serve as an outside board member at TOYOTA Motor Corporation, FUJITSU Corporation and CSL Behring KK. As an in-house legal counsel-experience lawyer, I provide commercial and corporate legal advice on a fractional/secondment basis to corporates in Japan and overseas. My personal mission is to accelerate inclusive diverse leadership in the boardrooms and workplaces of Japan through my governance roles.

## EXPERTISE | SPECIALIZATION

- General Corporate, Commercial & Compliance
- Outside General Counsel
- Secondment-based, fractional legal counsel services
- Ad-hoc, dedicated, part-time or project-based legal advisory
- Outside Director and Statutory Auditor services
- Legal and Compliance workshops & training
- Certification and Witnessing of documentation

## CONTACT INFO

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## WORK HISTORY

- Catherine O'Connell LAW | 2018 ~ current
- Molex LLC Head of Legal & APAC Regional Counsel | 2012 – 2017
- Hogan Lovells Tokyo Senior Associate | 2010 – 2012
- Hogan Lovells London Senior Associate | 2010
- Mitsubishi Motors Seconded In House Counsel | 2008 – 2010
- Panasonic group of companies Senior In House Counsel | 2004 – 2007
- Olympus Corporation In House Counsel 2002 – 2003
- Anderson Lloyd Barristers & Solicitors, Senior Solicitor | 1995 – 2002
- Japan Travel Bureau | 1987 – 1990

## BAR LICENSES & ACADEMIC HISTORY

- University of Canterbury (New Zealand)  
Bachelor of Laws | 1994, B.A in Japanese | 1994
- Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology  
Advanced Certificate in Japanese Language | 1986
- Registered Foreign Lawyer, Japan | 2018
- Dai-Ichi Bar Association | 2017
- Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales | 2009
- Barrister & Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand | 1995

## TRACK RECORD

- 21+ years working and living in Japan
- First foreign female lawyer to launch a law firm in Tokyo
- TOYOTA Motor Corporation, Audit & Supervisory Board Member, June 2023~
- FUJITSU Limited, Audit and Supervisor Board Member, June 2022~
- CSL Behring, Statutory Auditor, September, 2020~
- ANZCCJ, Vice Chair 2016~
- ACCJ, Legal Services & IP Committee, Chair 2020~
- Women in Law Japan, President 2020~
- Winner, Boutique Law Firm of the Year Award 2023
- Winner, Foreign Lawyer of the Year Award, 2022
- BCCJ British Business Awards, Winner 2020, Entrepreneur of the Year
- Global Chamber Winner, 2020 Global Excellence Award
- ACCJ, Leader of the Year Award, 2020
- Cross-cultural business communication bridging Western and Japan mindsets
- Host, Lawyer on Air Podcast and co-host of the "Jandals in Japan" Podcast