Greetings from Columbia Law School!

As we begin another academic year, we would like to update our alumni and friends about the many events of the Center for Japanese Legal Studies in 2013-2014.

FACULTY EXCHANGE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

(Left to right) Yuji Iwasawa, Kentaro Matsubara, Anu Bradford, and Ronald Mann

The faculty exchange program between Columbia Law School and the University of Tokyo is now in its third decade. The two professors we hosted at CLS last year were Yuji Iwasawa, professor of international law and Kentaro Matsubara, professor of legal history. Professors Iwasawa and Matsubara gave several public lectures as part of Professor Curtis J. Milhaupt’s course on Japanese Law. (See Events in sidebar, below.) CLS faculty members Ronald Mann and Anu Bradford traveled to Japan. Ronald Mann, the Albert E. Cinelli Enterprise Professor of Law and co-director of the Charles Evans Gerber Transactional Studies Center, taught a course in current topics in American commercial law. He also presented a paper to the University of Tokyo faculty on the optimism bias in payday lending. Anu Bradford, the Henry L. Moses Professor of Law and International Organizations and the director of the European Legal Studies Center, taught a course on international trade law. She also presented her research to the University of Tokyo faculty and gave a talk to CLS alumni at a reception hosted by Satoshi Kawai, LL.M. ’95 and Yuto Matsumura, LL.M. ’02.

STUDENTS

Japan Public Interest Fellowship Recipient

Benjamin Setel’s Japanese language skills and interest in international human rights law led him to apply for the Public Interest Fellowship. Ben worked with Human Rights Now! in Tokyo this past summer. His work consisted of researching and writing reports on various human rights issues across the world. Representative projects included a review of the labor situation in Bangladesh, and acting as a shadow reporter for Japan’s ICCPR review.

Shapiro Fellowships in Japanese Law

This year the Center named Brandon Ceranowicz (left) and Rina Fujii (right) as Shapiro Fellows in Japanese law, which supports student research on Japanese law. Rina and Brandon are conducting research for Professor Milhaupt into the historical and socio-cultural roots of contemporary legal problems in Japan.

Students Working in Japan, Summer 2014

Six Columbia Law School students worked in Japan during the 2014 summer. They included Kevin Casey (left), Heita Miki (center), and Rina Fujii, who all worked at Morrison Foerster; Simon Wechsler (right), who was with Momo-o Matsuo & Namba; Benjamin Setel, with Human Rights Now! Tokyo; and Brandon Ceranowicz, who worked at Sullivan & Cromwell.
NAGASHIMA OHNO & TSUNEMATSU FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Nagashima Ohno & Tsumematsu Fellowship helps Columbia Law School attract the top J.D. candidates in the country with a professional interest in Japan. The Center awarded two NO&T Fellowships to incoming 1Ls in the Class of 2017.

Arisa Akashi—Arisa is a native Japanese speaker born in New York City. She studied cognitive neuroscience at Brown University and experimental psychology at the University of Oxford, medical sciences division. She interned at Hands On Tokyo, researching suicide rates in the earthquake-affected region. She has also worked as a senior counselor at the American School summer day camp in Japan.

Daniel M. Kelly—Daniel holds a master’s degree in Japanese literature from Doshisa University. His B.A. is in East Asian Languages from Columbia University. After graduation, the Japanese Ministry of Education awarded him a research grant for two years. He has translated academic articles from Japanese into English and worked in a New York City-based law firm with a Japan practice.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The Center hosted three visiting scholars this year.

Masako Miyatake (left) is an associate with Nishimura & Asahi. Her research topic at Columbia was a comparative approach to financial ADR cases in Japan, the U.S., and United Kingdom. Ms. Miyatake is an expert in alternative dispute resolution.

Kayoko Oshima (center), is an expert from Doshisha University in Constitutional Law and on Rights to Education. Her research topic while at Columbia was educational reform and public school teachers’ labor conditions in the U.S.

Rikako Watai (right), is a professor from Keio University School of Law. Her research focus at Columbia was the regulation of foreign direct investment in the U.S. and Japan: Finding a balance between national security and free trade.

EVENTS

Our events this year proved to be extremely popular. Many were standing-room only!

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
State Intervention and Private Enterprise: Japan, the U.S., and China
Full-day conference with international experts addressed how governments support private enterprise in crisis in Japan, the U.S., and China.

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Abenomics and U.S.-Japan Economic Relations
An informal discussion on the economic policies of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with Hugh Patrick, the Robert D. Calkins Professor of International Business Emeritus and Director of the Center on the Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia Business School.

Thursday, January 30, 2014
Recent Trends in Japanese M&A (and in the Market for Deal Lawyers)
Kenneth A. Siegel, Partner, Morrison Foerster, Tokyo

Monday, February 17, 2014
The Work of the Human Rights Committee: Its Implications for the United States and Japan
Professor Yuji Iwasawa

Wednesday, February 19, 2014
International Human Rights Law and Japan: Women, Children Born Out of Wedlock
Professor Yuji Iwasawa

Monday, March 3, 2014
Society, State, and the Family: Chinese and Japanese Legal Traditions in a Comparative Perspective
Professor Kentaro Matsubara

Monday, March 10, 2014
Historical Turning Points: The University of Tokyo and the Making of Modern Japanese Legal Culture
Professor Kentaro Matsubara

Thursday, April 3, 2014
Changing Employment Practices and New Employment Policies in Japan: Fairness for Non-standard Employees?
Takashi Araki, Professor of Law, University of Tokyo Faculty of Law
ALUMNI CELEBRATION IN TOKYO

On January 9, 2014, Dean David M. Schizer paid a special farewell visit to our Japan-based alumni at a cocktail reception in Tokyo. About 100 alumni joined Dean Schizer and Professor Curtis Milhaupt for a lively gathering at the Hotel Okura. Please see photos of this event, at right and below.

NEW CLS LEADERSHIP

Robert E. Scott (left), the Alfred McCormack Professor of Law and the director of the Center on Contract and Economic Organization at Columbia Law School, is serving as the interim dean upon completion of David Schizer's decade of service. Gillian Lester (right), the acting dean and the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, officially begins her tenure as the dean of Columbia Law School on January 1, 2015.

Please check out the extended interview of Curtis J. Milhaupt by Hideki Kanda, Professor of Law, University of Tokyo Faculty of Law, in the recently published Kaishaho Komentaru (Company Law Commentary vol. 9) (Shoji Homu Press 2014). (Click here to view.)

Columbia's leadership in the field of Japanese law is embodied in the Center for Japanese Legal Studies. The Center initiates and administers a range of research projects, academic exchanges, and informal programs designed to enhance understanding of the Japanese legal system among the Columbia University community and beyond.