



UCHIDA & SAMEJIMA LAW FIRM

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内田・鮫島法律事務所
UCHIDA & SAMEJIMA LAW FIRM

Uchida & Samejima Law Firm is located at center of Tokyo-city and is dedicated to business-legal matters, including Intellectual Property and M&A issues. One unique feature of the law firm is that attorneys are well acquainted to various technologies such as IT, process technology, electronics and mechanics, as well as experienced to law suit and issues regarding patents, software and product liability.

Managing Partner Masahiro Samejima has started his business career as metallurgy engineer, and experienced intellectual property works and management in IBM Japan. During the course, he has passed the patent attorney examination, as well as bar examination, which at the time only several people ever achieved. He has been mainly undertaking technical suits such as patent issue and IT issue, including software and system disputing. In addition, his profession is in business issue, such as M&A and Joint venturing between technology companies.

Uchida & Samejima Law Firm (USLF) is dedicated to legal issue and cases relevant to technologies.

The firm has 11 attorneys in total; most of them have some kind of technological background such as Information technology, and the peripherals like electronics, semi-conductors and system engineering. Moreover, most attorneys have some business experience such as engineer, IP department employee in a large company, or consultant. This feature is distinguishing in Japan, since typical attorneys in Japan

are graduate of law schools, without getting into any business.

Though the firm is resident in the centre of Tokyo, the firm can handle any case over Japan. The firm has a good connection with foreign law firms, and other experts such as tax accountant, patent filing firm, and consultant.

Main areas of practice:

- IT litigations: damages caused by inferior system engineering,
- Internet business structuring and legal consulting,
- Dispute to copyrights, such as software contents and databases.
- Patent litigation regarding IT.

Currently, 20% of the firm's clients are foreign clients. The firm practices in Japanese, as well as in English.

In the firm's opinion IT legal dispute is a mixture of law and technology. Therefore, the attorney should be well acquainted to both areas, in order to proceed with such practice in an adequate and costly manner. Because the firm has three attorneys who have been IT experts in the past, such as system engineers or IT consultants, the firm is one of the law firms in Japan which can achieve this. This is a splendid feature of the law firm, since no other law firm in Japan has this kind of attorney portfolio.

Also, another advantages of the law firm is that, IT attorneys are mixed with IP attorneys that can manage both disputes altogether.