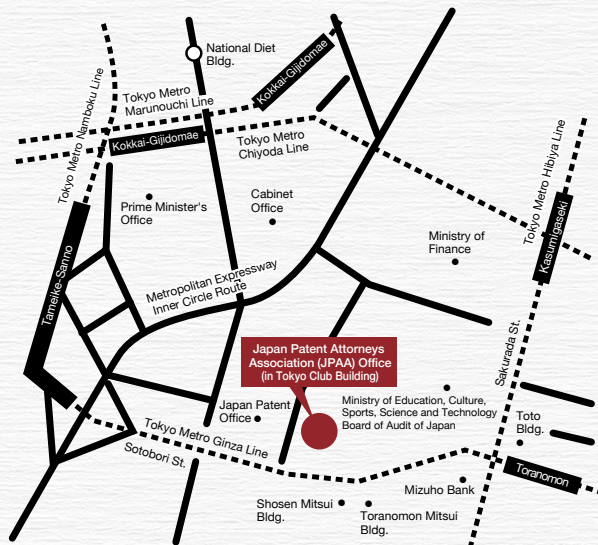


Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA)

The Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) is an organization established in 1915 under the Patent Attorneys Act. All Japanese patent attorneys must be members of the JPAA, and persons who wish to be members of the JPAA must be qualified as Japanese patent attorneys. The number of patent attorneys registered with the JPAA is 11,600 (as of December 31, 2020), including not only members who are Japanese nationals but also those with foreign nationalities.

Japanese patent attorneys are authorized to represent in the filing and prosecution of applications for patents, utility models, designs, and trademarks before the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and also to represent in court proceedings of suits against appeal/trial decisions made by the JPO. They are also allowed to provide professional services in infringement litigation, arbitration proceedings, border control procedures, and drafting of contracts and expert opinions with regard to intellectual property rights including those related to semiconductor circuit layouts, specified unfair competition practices, and copyright works.



The JPAA has nine regional branches across the country, located in Kanto (Tokyo), Hokkaido (Sapporo), Tohoku (Sendai), Hokuiku (Kanazawa), Tokai (Nagoya), Kansai (Osaka), Chugoku (Hiroshima), Shikoku (Takamatsu) and Kyushu (Fukuoka). These branches provide support and information concerning IP rights not only to the JPAA members but also to persons living in respective areas who have concerns with IP rights.



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JAPAN PATENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Role of the JPAA

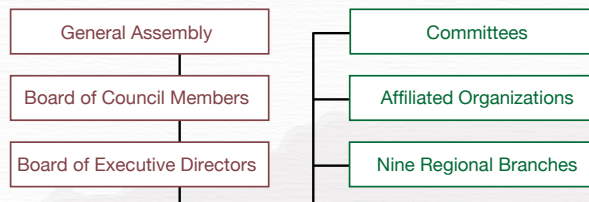
The purpose of the JPAA is to direct and supervise its members to ensure that the professional standards of the patent bar are maintained. To achieve this purpose, the JPAA provides its members with various types of IP information, educates and trains them, guides them in terms of ethics, and when necessary, disciplines them.



Organization of the JPAA

For the purpose of directing and supervising its members, the JPAA has an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Vice Presidents, and Executive Directors. The Board of Executive Directors is the JPAA's decision-making and executive body that sets up its budget, approves its main projects, and implements them with approval of the General Assembly. The JPAA has more than 40 committees and other organizations for the purpose of achieving objectives such as strengthening its capabilities, enhancing its functions in supporting the development of industry, and promoting academic research. These committees include the Patent Committee, Trademark Committee, Design Committee, Biotechnology and Life Science Committee, Ethics Committee, and Compliance Committee.

●Organization Chart



Activities of the JPAA

●Training Institute

The Training Institute provides a number of educational courses and programs to the JPAA members. Before being registered as patent attorneys, people who have passed the patent attorney examination are required to take intensive educational courses that cover a wide range of topics concerning IP laws, practices and procedures, studies of judicial cases, and international application procedures.

●Central Research Institute of Intellectual Property

This organization conducts research and study and provides information regarding various issues on IP and patent attorneys at home and abroad from a long-term and international perspective.



●The JPAA International Activities Center (JIAC)

The JPAA has an International Activities Center (JIAC) for carrying out international activities. The JIAC keeps itself abreast of developments such as revisions of IP laws and practices as well as decisions made by patent offices and courts in foreign countries, and provides such information to the JPAA members.

The JPAA regularly holds meetings with patent attorney associations of foreign countries including the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom, Korea, and China, to promote better mutual understanding of respective IP systems and keep up with recent developments.

The JPAA also holds the permanent observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and dispatches its delegates to WIPO sessions.

●Public Relations Center

The JPAA publishes a monthly magazine for its members, "Patent," and a monthly newsletter for general readers, "Patent Attorney."

The JPAA frequently holds press conferences, participates in various media events and meetings of other organizations, and holds presentations at lectures and other events.

●Intellectual Property Support Center

The Intellectual Property Support Center provides pro bono services of patent attorneys with the aim of promoting the public understanding of the IP systems. These services include the following activities: sending the JPAA members to lectures at schools; providing consultation services free of charge; and providing support and financial assistance in obtaining IP rights.

●Intellectual Property Management Center

This organization conducts research and study and provides information regarding management approaches and IP value assessment for making use of IP in corporate activities.

