



Daini Tokyo Bar Association

The roots behind “NIBEN Taking the Initiative” are our enterprising spirit along with our free and open-minded culture.

There are three bar associations in Tokyo (the Tokyo Bar Association, the Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association, and the Daini Tokyo Bar Association). The Daini Tokyo Bar Association (NIBEN) is the newest of these three bar associations, and is characterized by its “enterprising spirit” and “free and open-minded culture”.

This spirit has been the driving force behind our nation-leading initiatives in various fields. We were the first bar association in Japan to establish an Alternative Dispute Resolution Center for the prompt and fair resolution of civil disputes. We were also the first bar association in Japan to propose the establishment of law schools.

In addition, we are also the first bar association in Japan to introduce a basic plan for gender equality and a quota-based system that prioritizes the inclusion of a certain number of female vice presidents.

Building a closer relationship. What does a bar association do?

The activities of lawyers are not limited to resolving problems mainly through court cases.

In addition to providing legal advice, bar associations are involved in activities that are directly or indirectly related to the lives of citizens, such as human rights protection, corporate management support, and legal education for children.



We have the second most member lawyers in the country.

The Daini-Tokyo Bar Association has more than 6,000 members which is the second largest in Japan after the Tokyo Bar Association. It also has one of the highest percentages of female members in the country, a lot of special foreign members, and a large number of lawyers who work in companies or as civil servants.

Recently, we have seen a rapid increase in the number of young members, with more than half of our members at their 10th year of membership or less. These young members are actively involved in committee and research group activities. (As of February 2021)



Column

Why are there three bar associations in Tokyo?

Usually, there is only one bar association for each district court jurisdiction area in Japan, but Tokyo is an exception. There are three bar associations in Tokyo; the Daini Tokyo Bar Association, Tokyo Bar Association, and Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association.

The Tokyo Bar Association was established in 1893 with the enactment of the Attorney Act. In 1923, the Tokyo Bar Association split to form the Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association. The Daini Tokyo Bar Association was established in 1926 by members of both associations who expressed concerns over the split. Lawyers practicing in Tokyo must belong to one of these associations, but the choice is free, and there is no hierarchy or regional division.

In addition, these three bar associations work together as one to provide services such as legal consultation and dispatch of on-site lawyers.



Protecting human rights

We are engaged in a variety of initiatives to protect human rights and achieve social justice.

Human rights are the rights that all people are born with and that allow them to live as human beings. These rights, such as personal dignity, security of life, and the pursuit of freedom and happiness, must be respected equally by all. However, in reality, there are still many cases where sacred human rights are violated, such as bullying and discrimination against people in vulnerable positions.

We are engaged in various activities to protect human rights through the establishment of various systems and committees. We have also established a Human Rights Relief Fund to provide assistance to those who are unable to speak out due to economic reasons, especially in cases of high public interest.



Expressing opinions

In order to create a better society, we share a variety of opinions and suggestions with the outside world and work to change society for the better.

As new social problems emerge one after the next, the existing problems with systems and organizations become clearer and clearer. As the organization of legal professionals standing by the side of the people, we examine various problems that exist in society from the standpoint of legal professionals, and actively work to change society for the better by communicating our views on these problems to the outside world through statements by the president, and by proposing improvements in the form of written opinions to the relevant authorities.



Citizen services

We will always be a strong ally for you at the forefront of problem solving.

We are actively working to create judicial services that are accessible to all. At the forefront of this effort is our ability to respond quickly and accurately to the various legal issues faced by the people, businesses, public organizations, and other groups. In order to achieve this, the Daini Tokyo Bar Association has been enhancing and strengthening its system for providing legal consultations to ordinary citizens. Furthermore, it may be necessary to conduct various negotiations, take various procedures, or file a court case based on the consultation.



Operations

Standard consultation

- General consultation
- Consultation on family affairs
- Traffic accident consultation
- Labor consultation
- Consumer consultation
- Medical Consultation
- Women's rights consultation
- Architectural consultation
- Consultation for foreign residents
- Telephone consultation for victims of a crime
- Consultation for children's problems
- Consultation for the elderly and disabled (by telephone)
- Free telephone consultation about island areas
- Emergency consultation on pollution and the environment
- Lawyer referral services for Hague Convention cases
- Whistleblowing consultation
- Telephone consultation for small and medium-sized enterprises (Himawari Hotline) ...And more

Special consultations and events (irregular)

- Legal advice for mind and life
- Emergency freelance problems
- LINE consultation for children
- Nationwide free consultation sessions on employment and daily life
- Special consultation for disaster victims ...And more

Other civic services

- Management of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center
- Operation of Committee for Housing Dispute Settlement Agency
- Referral service for legal advisors
- Support for dispatching lawyers to lightly-populated areas

【Legal consultation】

We provide legal consultation services to help resolve disputes and problems in the lives of the people.

In society, there are times when conflicts and disputes involving the rights and interests of others may unexpectedly arise. Examining and dealing with conflicts and everyday concerns from a legal perspective in familiar situations, such as in the home or at work, can be a shortcut to solving these problems. The Daini Tokyo Bar Association has established legal consultation centers throughout Tokyo to make the law and lawyers more accessible to the people, and is working to create an environment where people can feel free to consult with us without any worries.

【Corporate management support】

Vitalizing Japan by providing support to companies.

As a supporter of corporate management, the Daini Tokyo Bar Association provides legal consultation, a list of candidates for outside directors, referrals to legal advisors, referrals to lawyers in specialized fields, and lecturer referral services.

It is much less time-consuming and financially burdensome to try to prevent problems on an everyday basis than to deal with them after they have occurred. A lawyer who can be consulted with ease whenever you have questions or concerns about your business or transactions is a reassuring presence. In the event of a problem, you can call the Himawari Hotline and a nearby lawyer will assist you.

The 6 major activities of the Daini Tokyo Bar Association

Our association is made up of many people and organizations. Therefore, we sometimes get caught up in unexpected situations, such as violations of individual human rights, conflicts between rights and interests, and major social problems.

With the intention of creating a society in which people can lead their everyday lives with a sense of security, the Daini Tokyo Bar Association aims to provide support for the lives of the people through a variety of activities as a legal organization right by your side.

It is also an important role of a bar association to train lawyers who have diverse and sufficient levels of legal knowledge and who are trusted by the people. In addition to actively providing support for legal training and helping new lawyers find jobs, the association also provides guidance and supervision to veteran lawyers and enhances training support, thereby creating an environment where lawyers can focus on their work and maintain their qualifications.



【Alternative Dispute Resolution Center】

We resolve a wide variety of disputes quickly and flexibly, with great attention to detail.

Problems occur in the everyday lives of individuals and in the business activities of companies. People want to resolve these problems in a mutually satisfactory manner through discussion without making a big deal out of them if possible, but it can be difficult for the parties concerned to come to an agreement. For citizens and companies with such problems, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, established by the Daini Tokyo Bar Association, provides experienced lawyers to listen to both sides of the dispute and help them reach an amicable solution while encouraging mutual compromise. The Committee for Housing Dispute Settlement Agency specializes in housing disputes.



【Legal training】

To foster the vitality in children who will carry the future.

In society, rules are created and problems are solved based on the legal way of thinking in all types of situation. As the participation of citizens in the judicial system, such as with the lay judge system, is taking steps forward, legal thinking is becoming more important as a skill for living in a civil society. The Daini Tokyo Bar Association provides a variety of legal education services in cooperation with schools in order to nurture the vitality of the children who will carry the future.



■ Onsite Classes (onsite legal study sessions)

With the aim of fostering the ability to think for oneself, our lawyers visit schools from elementary schools to universities to conduct classes. A wide range of topics are available upon request, including bullying prevention, criminal trials, Internet usage, and contracts.



■ Attending Trials

When people hear the word trial, they tend to feel that it is full of stiff legal terminology and difficult to understand, and not much is known about how it is actually conducted. Therefore, lawyers belonging to the Daini Tokyo Bar Association will accompany you to a trial as a guide and provide easy-to-understand explanations.

■ Tours of the Bengoshi Kaikan

Tours of the Bengoshi Kaikan provide information about the work of lawyers and allow for a question-and-answer session. We also hold a Constitutional Law Quiz Rally where you can learn about the Constitution while visiting places such as courthouses and prosecutors' offices with explanations by lawyers.



■ Junior Law School

We hold a Junior Law School once a year, inviting students to the Bengoshi Kaikan in Kasumigaseki. We have interactive and participatory classes available, such as a mock trial where participants play the role of lawyers. Our lawyers prepare classes that can be enjoyed not only by those interested in the legal profession, but anyone. We are looking forward to your participation.

Education of the Future Generations

We cooperate with legal apprenticeships and actively accept and train new lawyers.

In order to create and foster lawyers with the ability to contribute to civil society, it is essential to cooperate with legal apprenticeships as well as accept and train new lawyers. Legal apprenticeships are practical training programs provided by the government to train judges, prosecutors, and lawyers after passing the bar exam, and the Daini Tokyo Bar Association prepares and implements various practical training curriculums. Enhancing the acceptance and training of new lawyers has become an urgent issue in response to the rapid increase in the number of legal professionals. In addition to job placement support, such as holding job fairs for legal apprentices, enhancing training for newly registered lawyers, and operating the Newcomer Support Center, we have also introduced a system under which experienced lawyers from other firms provide one-on-one on-the-job training to the growing number of solo lawyers (lawyers who start their own businesses immediately after registration rather than working for an existing law firm). There is also a system to support young lawyers to study abroad at law schools in the U.S. and China affiliated with the Daini Tokyo Bar Association.



Guidance and supervision of lawyers

We are committed to providing guidance and supervision to lawyers so that the people can rely on them.

In order to maintain and expand the public's trust in lawyers, it is necessary for lawyers to properly handle cases in accordance with the Attorney Act and attorney ethics. In order to achieve this, it is necessary for each lawyer to make efforts, and it is also important for the Daini Tokyo Bar Association to provide guidance and supervision. The Daini Tokyo Bar Association holds ethics training and requires all lawyers to attend it on a regular basis. It has also established a disciplinary system in which lawyers who conduct themselves in an unethical manner are given warnings, suspended from practice, ordered to withdraw or are expelled from the association. In addition, in order to resolve problems between citizens and lawyers, we have established a citizens' consultation service and a dispute mediation system to help resolve problems related to money, such as lawyer's fees and deposits, as well as complaints about the way cases are handled.

- Discipline and punishment of lawyers
- Conducting ethics training
- Crackdown on unruly activities
- Mediation of disputes with lawyers
- Citizen consultation services (complaints, etc.)



Lawyer training and support

We provide support to maintain the quality of our lawyers and to further improve their skills.

The environment surrounding lawyers is constantly changing as laws are revised and new laws are enacted. New issues are constantly arising in the aspect of attorney ethics as well. Even experienced lawyers cannot provide appropriate support to citizens and businesses if they neglect self-improvement. Therefore, the Daini Tokyo Bar Association holds various training sessions to help lawyers improve and enrich their skills. The Daini Tokyo Bar Association holds more than 200 training sessions per year to help lawyers acquire all kinds of legal knowledge, from basic to advanced levels. In addition, all lawyers belonging to the association are required to undergo ethics training on a regular basis in order to ensure the highest level of legal ethics. In addition, we have established a joint library with the Tokyo Bar Association with a collection of approximately 100,000 books to assist in the making the latest legal knowledge available.

