

# Marriage Equality in Japan and beyond

**Thursday, May 20, 2021**

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. JST

## Virtual event

### Speakers

#### **Kanako Otsuji**

Member of Japan's  
House of Representatives

#### **Makiko Terahara**

Representative Director,  
Marriage for All Japan

#### **Hanae Fujinami**

Associate, White & Case, Tokyo

### Moderator

#### **Rika Beppu**

A founding member and former  
President of Women in Law  
Japan, and Partner, Squire  
Patton Boggs

We are pleased to invite you to a joint virtual event “Marriage Equality in Japan and Beyond” at 6:00 p.m. on May 20, 2021, featuring **Kanako Otsuji**, member of Japan's House of Representatives and **Makiko Terahara**, representative director of Marriage for All Japan. Our speakers will discuss the status of marriage equality in Japan, the Sapporo District Court decision, and the status of marriage equality in Asia and the world. In addition, **Hanae Fujinami**, associate, White & Case LLP will update the current status of the Viewpoint for Marriage Equality.

The panel discussion will include Kanako Otsuji and Makiko Terahara. **Rika Beppu**, a founding member and former President of Women in Law Japan, and partner, Squire Patton Boggs will moderate the event.

If you have any questions for our panelists, please feel free to send them to [contact@womeninlawjapan.org](mailto:contact@womeninlawjapan.org).

This event is open to all genders.

### Other information

- This event is complimentary.
- CLE accreditation for this webinar is under application.

For further information about this event, please contact us at [contact@womeninlawjapan.org](mailto:contact@womeninlawjapan.org)

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## Speakers



### Kanako Otsuji

Kanako Otsuji is a Member of the House of Representatives and the current Deputy Director General of the Interest Policy Group Bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP). She also serves as the Secretary-General of the CDP's PT regarding SOGI, and head of Osaka's District 2 electoral branch for the CDP. She is a Member of the House of Representatives' Health, Labor and Welfare Committee and Special Committee on Consumer Issues. She was a Member of the House of Councilors (2013), and a Member of Osaka Prefectural assembly (2003-2007). She is also a Representative Director of the LGBT Policy Information Centre, as well as a certified social worker, care worker, and medical social worker.

Ms. Otsuji holds second-dan rank in karate and first-dan rank in taekwondo. In 2005, she published "Kamingu auto-Jibun rashisa o mitsukeru tabi (Coming Out: A Journey to Find My True Self)" (*Kodansha*), and publicly announced that she was a lesbian. In 2013, she became the first openly lesbian Diet Member after being elected to the House of Councillors (due to the withdrawal of the incumbent member). Her focus in politics is to create an inclusive society where no one is left behind.



### Makiko Terahara

Makiko Terahara is a lawyer admitted in Japan and New York. She has worked as an attorney at Nagashima, Ohno and Tsunematsu Law Firm, and graduated from the New York University School of Law, after which she worked as in-house lawyer at Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co., Ltd. She is now a co-representative of Tokyo Omotesando Law Firm. As a member of the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations' "Project Team on LGBT Rights," she has devoted herself to the protection of sexual minorities' human rights. In recent years, she has focused on marriage equality as the co-representative of Tokyo Litigation Attorney, and representative director of "Marriage For All Japan."



### Hanae Fujinami

Hanae Fujinami is a litigation associate at White & Case LLP. She specializes in complex commercial litigation, particularly for technology clients. She is barred in New York. Ms. Fujinami has been a core member of LLAN and the Viewpoint for Marriage Equality committee from its inception, and is hopeful that marriage equality will become a reality in Japan soon.

## Moderator



### Rika Beppu

Rika Beppu is a founding member and former President of Women in Law Japan (WILJ). After graduating from Sophia University's Faculty of Foreign Languages and Studies, English Language Department, Rika studied and trained in the United Kingdom and obtained her qualification as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. Upon her return to Japan in 2001, she was the founding managing partner of an international law firm's Tokyo office, and subsequently a Corporate M&A partner at her former firm since 2008. As from October 2017, Rika is a Corporate M&A partner at Squire Patton Boggs in Tokyo. Rika is a foreign registered lawyer (English law) of the Tokyo Dai-ni Bar Association since 2001. She currently serves as the chair of the European Business Council, Legal Affairs Committee and a board member of Lawyers for LGBT & Allies Network. She is also a founding member of the Asia Society Japan Center, where she leads the Asia21 Young Global Leaders Japan chapter.