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Introduction

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SYMPOSIUM

Japanese Law and Practice in Transnational Litigation

Introduction by Joseph P. Griffin*

In August 1988 People-to-People International and the Keidanren sponsored a very successful three-day bilateral legal conference in Tokyo. I had the honor of chairing a program entitled "Transnational Litigation" at that conference. The Japanese participants in the program presented very timely and useful papers on Japanese law and practice relating to service of process, discovery, and enforcement of foreign judgments in transnational litigation. A number of the conference participants suggested that it would be very helpful for *The International Lawyer* to publish these papers so that they could be made available to a wide audience of international practitioners. Although I have edited the following papers slightly for consistency and format, full credit for their excellence and usefulness belongs to their Japanese authors.

Introduction by Akio Harada**

As one of the members of the Executive Committee for *The U.S./Japan Bilateral Session—A New Era in Legal and Economic Relations* held last summer in Tokyo, I am very pleased that *The International Lawyer* is publishing the articles by the Japanese panelists in the "Transnational Litigation" committee session. I am also honored and privileged to write

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this short introduction at the suggestion of Mr. Joseph P. Griffin, my old friend who served the session as Chairperson. It was Mr. Griffin who requested me to write a brief letter relating to the service of process in Japan for *The International Lawyer* more than ten years ago,¹ while I used to work as Legal Attaché in the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

I believe the articles printed here will be useful and informative for those who are interested in the litigation process in Japan, because they accurately reflect current practice. Although there should be more continuing efforts from the Japanese side to explain the Japanese judicial system and its procedures to American counterparts, these prayers are good guidelines for further study.

The purpose of the above-mentioned conference was to deepen the understanding between the legal communities of our two countries so that we can cope with the situations under which it is getting more and more important for all of us to solve the many economic and social issues among us under the rule of common principles of law and due process.

I sincerely hope all the efforts and work done by the many people involved in the conference prove fruitful in the future.

1. 12 INT'L LAW. 503 (1978).