

LAB PARTNERS

Aggressive Advocacy

Crisis Management

Transactional Expertise

LAB PARTNERS

ABOUT LAB PARTNERS

Named the “Avengers” of the Korean legal market by media, LAB PARTNERS is a premier boutique law firm established by partners from the top law firms in Korea. LAB PARTNERS provides a one-stop service in all major practice areas. The diverse expertise of our partners enables us to provide a full range of services, which is uncommon for a firm of our size. Our partners all have over decades of experience and are regarded as the leading experts in their field.

LAB PARTNERS has been praised by clients for finding successful solutions, by applying expert knowledge and commercial insight in an agile and efficient manner without dwelling on factors extrinsic to clients' interest. As a testament to such efforts, LAB PARTNERS received the ‘Boutique Law Firm of the Year Award’ from Thomson Reuters Asian Legal Business and was named a ‘Leading Law Firm’ by the Legal Times in 2019. LAB PARTNERS is also consistently ranked within the top 10 law firms in Korea for M&A by various publications.

Our clients include Fortune 500 companies and numerous other global and domestic companies. We drive transactions proactively and advocate aggressively on behalf of our clients, offering a new dimension of legal solutions.

Corporate/ M&A

Our Corporate / M&A team has vast experience in both transactional and general corporate matters. We advise on a full range of deal structures in a variety of industries, drawing on the strength of our Corporate / M&A attorneys and industry specialists within our firm. LAB PARTNERS is one of the select law firms in Korea with genuine expertise in M&A, often working on ground-breaking transactions.

For foreign corporations investing in Korea, LAB PARTNERS provides tailored advice for the entire lifecycle of the investment, from structuring to exit. Drawing from the expertise of our attorneys in other practice areas, we take a holistic approach in providing legal advice at each stage of the investment encompassing incorporation of subsidiaries, government filings, recruitment and hiring, fair trade and competition, trade secrets, data privacy and negotiation with labor unions.

We also have unparalleled experience in risk control and crisis management with a successful track record of advising corporations in overcoming challenges. We provide foreign clients with highly customized advice in order to avoid their corporate liabilities arising from various business activities in Korea, which include advice on industry specific regulations, government relations, investigations and government procurement. In particular, we take a comprehensive approach in advising on government procurement matters, ensuring compliance with bid procedures and government procurement regulations, industry regulations, anti-corruption, cybersecurity and defense against bid protests.

LAB PARTNERS Corporate team consists of lawyers with over decades of experience at Korea's most prestigious law firms and in-house legal teams of multinational companies. Our expert team guides you seamlessly during the transaction process, starting from tax-efficient structuring of transactions such as M&A, business transfer, spin-off, asset purchase and corporate restructuring to a successful closing, while ensuring protection against any potential legal risks along the way.

Key Practice Areas

- General Corporate
- M&A / Foreign Investment
- Antitrust & Competition
- Data Protection & Privacy / Trade Secrets
- Government Relations / Regulatory Investigations
- Government Procurement
- Corporate Governance / Shareholder Activism
- Hostile Takeovers & Defense
- Insolvency & Restructuring

Finance/ Fintech

Our Finance team represents major financial institutions in various financial transactions including structured finance, project finance, acquisition finance, capital markets and IPOs. We also advise on the licensing and establishment of domestic and international financial institutions under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act, Banking Act, Insurance Business Act, Financial Holding Companies Act, Foreign Exchange Transactions Act, etc. as well as on corporate governance, internal control, overseas expansion, and investigations and inspections by financial supervisory authorities. A prominent area of our finance practice is advising the so-called “Disruptive Innovation”, such as block-chain and cryptocurrencies, P2P lending and internet/mobile banking based on technologies of the 4th industrial revolution. Our finance team, consisting of lawyers recognized as the leading lawyers by media and with in-house counsel experience in banking, securities and asset management industry, allows our clients to take advantage of our expertise in transactions, regulatory matters and litigation in an efficient manner.

Key Practice Areas

- Licensing of financial institutions / Regulatory Compliance
- Corporate Governance / Internal Control
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Overseas Expansion and Outbound Investments
- Finance Litigation
- Capital Markets and IPO
- Acquisition financing, structured finance including ABS and MBS issuance, project finance, aircraft and ship finance and derivatives.
- Cryptocurrency, ICOs, P2P lending, internet/mobile banking

Private Equity/ Venture Capital

LAB PARTNERS Private Equity / Venture Capital team is composed of lawyers with expertise in private equity funds and venture capital from the U.S., U.K., Hong Kong and Japan. We provide highly integrated legal services on establishment and registration of onshore and offshore funds, inbound and outbound cross-border M&A, buyout and non-buyout M&A, LP investments and portfolio management in various industries. We also provide post-merger integration (PMI) advice to ensure against legal risk and procure the continued success of our clients’ investment. The extensive experience, know-how and in-depth knowledge of our Private Equity / Venture Capital team lawyers allow clients to benefit from optimum deal structures, custom-tailored to meet the clients’ goals.

Key Practice Areas

- Establishment and Registration of Funds
- Domestic and international investment and acquisition financing
- Portfolio management of target company (PMI, HR, incentive arrangement, internal regulations, IP/IT licensing, business restructuring)
- Recapitalization, IPO
- Fund liquidation and settlement
- Investment-related dispute resolutions including Right of First Refusal, Drag-along rights

Labor/ Employment

LAB PARTNERS Labor / Employment team is composed of lawyers, experts and specialists with extensive experience from Korea's most prestigious law firms and multinational companies, providing optimal legal services in all aspects of labor law. Our Labor / Employment team works closely with other practice teams to resolve labor issues arising from M&A, data & privacy, compliance, anti-trust & competition, corporate restructuring, trade secret and tax. The depth and breadth of the experience enable our clients to draw upon our expertise without spending time on unnecessary research or legwork. Our Labor / Employment team has been recognized as top-tier by leading publications and consists of award winning lawyers and specialists, who take a creative and multi-dimensional approach in solving problems and providing solutions. With our client-centric approach and negotiation skills, our Labor / Employment team is capable of reaching a successful outcome in any complicated labor and employment issue.

Key Practice Area

- Individual employment relations including employment contracts-wage scheme-HR matters including evaluation & compensation disciplinary action & retirement
- Collective bargaining and labor relations including labor-management counsel and labor union-related matters
- Employment of nonregular workers including the dispatch of workers-fixed term employment- subcontracted employment
- Industrial safety and industrial accident-related matters
- Workplace harassment and sexual harassment
- Comprehensive advice on labor audits

Internal Investigation/ Compliance

In light of recent social and economic issues such as toxic humidifier disinfectants lawsuit, #MeToo movement and focus on anti-corruption, the Korean government is making sincere efforts to tackle corruption and reinforce integrity. As a result, institutional frameworks for transparency in corporate management, consumer protection and strict regulatory compliance with have become essential for sustainable development of corporations. LAB PARTNERS Investigation/Compliance team, with extensive experience in internal investigations and compliance matters gained from various top law firms, provides solutions to clients minimizing any further potential tangible and intangible losses that may arise in the event of compliance violations and protects corporate clients through a prompt and effective response in case of unfortunate incidents (including suspected corruption, embezzlement, cartel, leakage of confidential information, industrial accidents, harassment, wrongful termination of employment etc.).

Key Practice Areas

- Internal whistle-blowing
- Internal investigation and development of internal policies, practices
- Compliance review systems including risk analysis, establishment of procedural systems, periodic audit and educations
- Litigations related to whistle-blowing and compliance

Japan Practice

Businesses of Japanese companies in Korea are exposed to various complex risks. Successful joint ventures are on the decrease, but civil, criminal and administrative responsibilities of CEO and management at headquarters as well as local subsidiaries are more stringent than ever before. Labor and employment regulations which have traditionally been a difficult area to navigate are becoming reinforced under the current governmental policies introducing new policies, including shorter working hours. Transactions between local subsidiaries and subcontractors or agencies come under stricter fair trade regulations while protection and benefits are close to non-existent. Local subsidiaries are now expected to abide by the strict rules of compliance on trade secret and data privacy at the same level as is required at the headquarters. Local CEOs are in strong need of legal advice and protection to cope with unexpected incidents, and the need for a practical measure in local management is on the rise.

Key Practice Areas

[In-Bound legal service]

One-stop service advising and supporting Japanese company's expansion and operation in the Korean market

- Investment (Foreign investment, JV, M&A, Licensing)
- Business transaction
(Partners and subsidiaries, Agent, Fair trade and Financing)
- Management
(Corporate in general, Labor & Employment, Trade Secrets, Data Privacy, Withdrawal of bonds)
- Compliance (Internal Investigation)
- Dispute settlement
- Settlement, liquidation and disinvestment

[Out-Bound legal service]

Comprehensive legal service to Korean companies seeking business in Japan in liaison with distinguished Japanese law firms and accounting firms.

Litigation

LAB PARTNERS Litigation team, collaborates closely with lawyers from other practice groups, providing practical and efficient dispute resolution advice. In particular, our Litigation team is renowned for (i) M&A related litigation and disputes between stockholders, including establishing hostile M&A related takeover and defense strategies and injunction of shareholder meeting (ii) financial institution related litigation regarding securities, investment trust, PEF, etc. and civil and criminal litigation related to short-swing profits, inside trading and fraudulent trading, and (iii) labor and employment-related dispute resolutions including dismissal, suspension, and executive retirement.

Key Practice Areas

- Disputes over management, disputes between shareholders, shareholder derivative action, injunction to general meeting or board of directors
- Financial institutions and PEF related litigations
- Capital market-related disputes and criminal litigations of inside transaction, short-swing profits, fraudulent transaction, market-making
- Labor/employment disputes including dismissal and suspension, criminal litigation on compliance
- White collar crime responses

People



Young-Hee Jo

Managing Partner

+82 2 6956-0270

yhjo@labpartners.co.kr



Jinho Kim

Partner

+82 2 6956-0259

jhkim@labpartners.co.kr



Seungmin Jasmine Jung

Partner, Senior Foreign Attorney (NY)

+82 2 6956-6121

smjung@labpartners.co.kr



Youngju Kim

Partner

+82 2 6956-0264

yjkim@labpartners.co.kr



Kwangbok Kim

Partner

+82 2 6956-0262

kbkim@labpartners.co.kr



Jinho Ahn

Partner

+82 2 6956-0269

jhahn@labpartners.co.kr

LAB PARTNERS

8th Floor 501, Teheran-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

www.labpartners.co.kr

lab@labpartners.co.kr

T. +82 2 6956-0250

F. +82 2 6956-0280

