

# Press Release

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## Baker & McKenzie Represents Gibson Guitar in Onkyo Strategic Alliance

Tokyo, February 2, 2012 – A cross-border team of Baker & McKenzie attorneys recently represented Gibson Guitar Corp., the legendary maker of guitars and premier audio equipment, in executing a strategic alliance with Onkyo Corporation, a worldwide leader in consumer audio.

Through this venture, Gibson became the second largest shareholder in Onkyo Corporation and acquired a majority of Onkyo USA (Onkyo's exclusive distributor for North America and a distributor for Central and South America). The deal was announced on January 4, 2012 and closed on January 20, 2012.

Through this alliance, Onkyo USA becomes the latest addition to the Gibson Pro Audio division, which already includes KRK, Cerwin-Vega! and Stanton. As part of the alliance, the two companies also agreed to form a Hong Kong-based joint venture focusing on design and development of unparalleled consumer audio products. For more information on the deal, [please click here to view Gibson's press release on the matter](#).

Baker & McKenzie Tokyo Partners, Alexander R. Jampel and Hitoshi Sumiya, led the Firm's representation of Gibson in the Japan aspects of the transaction, with assistance from Counsel Haruhiko Ogasawara. Partner Shinichi Kobayashi assisted with tax matters. The Firm's team in San Francisco was led by Partner Emery D. Mitchell and Tiffany J. Rose, and Associates Justine Belytschko and David C. Rothschild.

"This deal fully utilized our integrated cross-border capabilities and resources to execute this complex multi-jurisdictional transaction." said Mr. Jampel.

Mr. Mitchell commented, "This was a fast moving and complex deal, and we are very pleased to have assisted Gibson with this strategically important transaction, which we hope will be a great success for both companies."

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## About Baker & McKenzie

Founded in 1949, Baker & McKenzie advises many of the world's most dynamic and successful business organizations through more than 3,800 locally qualified lawyers and over 5,800 professional staff in 70 offices in 42 countries. Baker & McKenzie is known for having a deep understanding of the language and culture of business, an uncompromising commitment to excellence, and world-class fluency in its client service. Baker & McKenzie's global revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, were US\$2.27 billion. Eduardo Leite is Chairman of the Firm's Executive Committee. ([www.bakermckenzie.com](http://www.bakermckenzie.com))

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