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## Baker McKenzie announces 67 partnership promotions, including two partners from the Tokyo office

**Combining this year's promotions and new lateral hires, the Firm added 120 partners.**

Global, Japan, 29 June 2018 – Leading global law firm Baker McKenzie is pleased to announce the election of 67 new partners. This latest investment in the Firm's expertise grows the total number of partners worldwide to 1,600. Over 400 of these are women - the most of any law firm.

This year women make up almost 40% of the newly promoted cohort of 67 partners; a market-leading number for any law firm. The promotions take effect from 1 July.

Across the Firm's practice groups globally, Tax and M&A saw the largest intake of new partners, with Dispute Resolution also significantly adding to their numbers.

During Financial Year 2018 Baker McKenzie also added 53 lateral hires, strengthening the Firm's already strong client service capabilities in key practice areas. Combining this year's promotions and new lateral talent, the Firm added 120 partners to its ranks.

Paul Rawlinson, Global Chair of Baker McKenzie, said:

"Congratulations to all of our new Partners - and welcome to the Firm. In a recent voluntary engagement survey of our 13,000 people worldwide, we scored highly on: pride in our Firm, our commitment to client-service and the Firm's commitment to D&I. This year's partner promotions shows that this is getting results: 40% of our new partners globally are women. We have a long way to go but I wanted to mark this achievement and the commitment of our people to being a truly diverse Firm".

In the Tokyo Office, Desai Samir (Major Projects) and Taijiro Suzuki (Real Estate) will be promoted to partners effective 1 July 2018.

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■ New partner at the Tokyo office



Samir S. Desai

Partner

Major Projects: Energy, Mining & Infrastructure, Renewable and Clean Energy

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Mr. Desai has worked in the area of project finance since 1996. From 1999 to 2005, he worked in Baker McKenzie's Washington DC office as a member of the Global Major Projects Group, including a term advising on transactional and energy regulatory matters in the Firm's London office. He assists clients in the development and financing of natural resources, electric power, oil & gas and infrastructure projects. He also advises on environmental markets matters, including transactions under the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms and trading rules.



Taijiro Suzuki

Partner, Real Estate, Banking & Finance

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Mr. Suzuki was recognized by 2017-2018 Legal 500 Asia Pacific (Japan: Real Estate) as a Next Generation Lawyer (within an international firm and joint venture). His practice focuses on project finance including PFI, solar and wind power generation, acting for both domestic and foreign clients. He also assists clients with legal issues involving real estate finance and the securitization of various types of assets (TMK structure, TK-GK structure, real estate specified joint enterprise structure, and trust structure). He also works on the development of residential, commercial and resort projects as well as urban redevelopment projects.

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The newly elected partners are:

### **Antitrust & Competition**

Fang-Yi Jen (Taipei)  
Joost Haans (Brussels)  
Catherine Koh Stillman (New York)\*

### **Banking & Finance**

Kullarat Phongsathaporn (Bangkok)  
David Cooper (Sydney)  
Jeremy Levy (London)  
Juan Carlos Gonzalez Novo (Chicago)\*

### **Capital Markets**

Ivy Tun Kei Wong (Hong Kong)  
Kowit Adireksombat (Bangkok)  
Kammalard Urapeepatanapong (Bangkok)  
Ora Wexler (Toronto)\*

### **Dispute Resolution**

Tjen Wee Wong (Singapore)  
Robert Lee (Taipei)  
Luca Beffa (Geneva)  
Dr. Nicolai Behr (Munich)  
Anton Mikel (Riyadh)  
Cristina Mejia (Bogota)  
Jennifer B. Seale (Washington, DC)\*  
Ahmed Shafey (Toronto)\*

### **Employment & Compensation**

Pamela Tsai (Taipei)  
Stephen Hardy (Sydney)  
Kellie-Ann McDade (Melbourne)  
Jonathan Sharp (London)  
Margarita Fernández (Madrid)  
Nadège Dallais (Paris)  
Christopher Burkett (Toronto)\*

### **International Commercial & Trade**

Kerry B. Contini (Washington, DC)\*  
José Hoyos-Robles (Mexico City)\*  
Richard L. White (Dallas)\*

### **Intellectual Property**

Jessica Le Gros (London)  
Matt Dushek (Washington, DC)\*  
Benjamin (Ben) B. Kelly (Dallas)\*  
Carlos Alberto Vela-Treviño (Mexico City)\*

### **IT & Communications**

Dr. Michaela Nebel (Frankfurt)

### **Mergers & Acquisitions**

Jeremy Ong (Hong Kong)  
Stephanie Phua (Kuala Lumpur)  
Ee Von Teo (Kuala Lumpur)  
Olha Demianiuk (Kyiv)  
Sergei Lomakin (Moscow)  
Jingjin Guo (Geneva)  
Dr. Björn Simon (Frankfurt)  
Caner Elmas (Istanbul)

Duygu Gultekin (Istanbul)  
Richard Needham (London)  
Elodie Duchêne (Luxembourg)  
Aurélie Govillé (Paris)  
Christina M. Bullock (Chicago)\*  
Steve J. Park (Houston)\*

### **Private Equity**

Omar J. Iqbal (Riyadh)

### **Projects**

Kate Phillips (Melbourne)  
Samir S. Desai (Tokyo)

### **Real Estate**

Taijiro Suzuki (Tokyo)  
Olivier Ducrey (Geneva)  
Brian Zurawski (Chicago)\*

### **Tax**

Michael Nixon (Singapore)  
Simone Bridges (Sydney)  
Kirill Vikulov (Moscow)  
David Jamieson (London)  
Jessica Eden (London)  
Rodrigo Castillo Cottin (Bogota)  
Paul F. DePasquale (New York)\*  
Tatyana Johnson (New York)\*  
Victor Alejandro Morales-Chavez (Mexico City)\*  
Jonathan Welbel (Chicago)\*  
Joshua Nixt (New York)\*  
Andrew C. O'Brien-Penney (Chicago)\*  
Ivan Tsios (Chicago)\*

*\*Promotions effective January 1, 2018*

## About Baker McKenzie

Baker McKenzie helps clients overcome the challenges of competing in the global economy. We solve complex legal problems across borders and practice areas. Our unique culture, developed over 65 years, enables our 13,000 people to understand local markets and navigate multiple jurisdictions, working together as trusted colleagues and friends to instill confidence in our clients.

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Baker & McKenzie (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise), a fully integrated law firm, is one of the leading law firms in Japan, and offers a full range of cross-border and Japanese legal services. As a member firm of Baker & McKenzie, the world's leading international law firm, we are able to draw upon a network to provide high quality solution-oriented legal services through timely delivery.

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